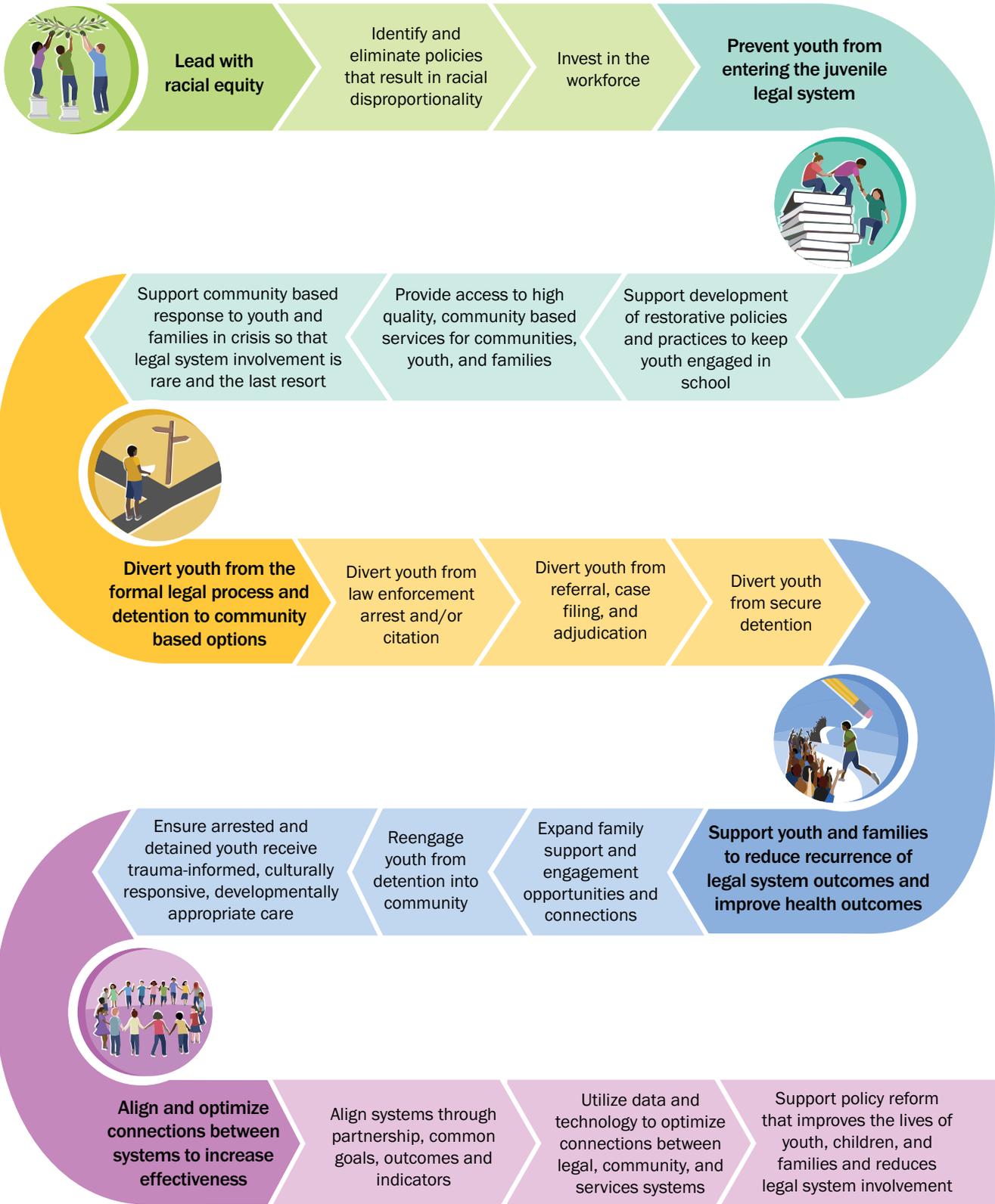




Road map to

# Zero Youth Detention





# Table of Contents

## **1 Executive Summary**

## **7 Introduction**

## **8 Acknowledgements**

## **9 Why the Road Map is Necessary**

- 9 Better Outcomes for Youth and Safer Communities
- 11 Historical and Current Systemic Inequities & Racial Disproportionality
- 13 Unify and Align Under Shared Vision

## **15 Background & Current Environment**

- 15 Operation of the County Juvenile Legal System
- 16 Reduction in the Use of Detention
- 16 The Children and Family Justice Center
- 17 Funding Climate

## **18 Fundamental Elements of the Road Map**

- 18 Development of the Road Map and Guiding Principles
- 19 Restorative Justice
- 20 Trauma-Informed Care & Public Health Approach

## **22 Road Map Objectives and Strategies**

- 23 Measuring Impact: Data and Metrics
- 27 Objective One: Lead
- 34 Objective Two: Prevent
- 41 Objective Three: Divert
- 49 Objective Four: Support
- 57 Objective Five: Align

## **62 Community and Employee Engagement and Feedback**

## **70 Conclusion**

## **71 Appendices**

- 71 A - Glossary of Road Map Terms
- 75 B - Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee Recommendations (2017)
- 78 C - Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee Diversion Recommendations (2018)
- 82 D - TeamChild/Treehouse Big Shift Policy Paper
- 93 E - Community Consortium Recommendations
- 106 F - Historical Racism References
- 108 G - Determinants of Equity

110	H - Detention Average Daily Population 1998-2017
112	I - Summary of Actions to Reduce the Use of Detention
116	J - Zero Youth Detention Interbranch Workgroup
118	K - Zero Youth Detention Guiding Principles
120	L - Superior Court – Juvenile Court Community Report
134	M - Trauma-Informed Approach
138	N - Public Health Approach
141	O - Children and Youth Advisory Board Recommendations for Zero Youth Detention
146	P - Case Examples
153	Q - CEDAR Program Description.
164	R - Uniting for Youth Member Organizations
166	S - Community Conversation and Focus Group Notes
170	T - Employee Focus Group Notes
175	U - General Public Survey Comments
264	V - General Public Survey Response Summaries
273	W - Employee Survey Comments
284	X - Employee Survey Response Summaries

## Executive Summary

In his 2017 State of the County speech, King County Executive Dow Constantine stated:

*Zero detention as a goal is an accountability measure. It compels us to ask in each case: How can we provide justice for the victim, and protect the community from further harm, while ensuring the best chance at redemption for this young person? Is there a disproportionate impact here, and is that about bias in the justice system, or about bias in the broader society...And, critically, it forces us to ask: What can we do for the next generation, to ensure a different outcome?*

As called for by King County Executive Dow Constantine, this report, hereafter referred to as “the Road Map,” is a strategic plan to not just further reduce the use of secure detention for youth in King County, but to launch this county on the journey to eliminate it.

### **The Road Map to Zero Youth Detention makes the case for why getting to zero is essential.**

It outlines practical solutions informed by communities. Solutions that are designed to improve community safety and help young people thrive. Solutions that keep youth from entering the juvenile legal system or diverting them from further juvenile legal system involvement. Solutions that support strong communities. Research documented in this Road Map finds:

- Youth and families of color are at higher risk of becoming involved in the juvenile legal system due in large part to the cumulative disadvantages they experience resulting from systemic racism and bias.
- Despite deep reductions in the use of secure detention for all youth in King County since 1999, racial disproportionality has worsened.
- Most youth have a better chance at a positive adulthood when they don't interact with the juvenile legal system.
- There is little relationship between youth incarceration and overall youth crime in the community.
- Most crime victims prefer investments in programs for at-risk youth, community supervision, and holding people accountable through means other than incarceration.
- Restorative justice has been shown to reduce recidivism and produce greater satisfaction for most victims of crime.
- The normal process of adolescent brain development is to make risky choices for a period of time before reaching adulthood.
- Expanding and supporting positive youth development services to youth and families in their communities holds the most promise to keep youth from encountering the legal system.

### **The journey to Zero Youth Detention means carefully expanding the range of community-based diversion options until it becomes the primary response for most youth who come into contact with the legal system.**

More immediate, accountable, culturally responsive, family-oriented, and developmentally appropriate responses will result in safer communities and more resilient youth. Youth who are better able to stay on the path to a happy, healthy, safe, and thriving adulthood.

**The journey to Zero Youth Detention is only possible through close partnership and collaboration with systems such as school districts; child welfare; law enforcement agencies; physical and behavioral health; and housing systems.**

King County and its partners have been reducing the use of secure detention for 20 years. The next reductions in the use of detention will come as a result of intentional collaboration with communities, law enforcement, schools, and the behavioral health system, among other partners. Since most of these systems and entities are not part of King County government, the Road Map highlights the different roles King County can play to bring these systems and communities together to support and advance the strategies and actions outlined in this report.

Because of the structural limitations on the County's General Fund revenue imposed by the State, the County will actively seek partnerships with community, philanthropy, higher education, the state, local jurisdictions, and the private sector to support and expand the work of Zero Youth Detention.

**The objectives, strategies, and action items in this Road Map have come through many avenues.**

They're drawn from community developed, community led, or community informed recommendations provided to the County over the last few years. They are informed from community engagement sessions in impacted communities; from individual interviews with youth and families involved in the juvenile legal system; and from juvenile legal system employees. They are informed by experts in brain science, adolescent development, trauma-informed treatment, and resilience. The goals and principles of the King County 2016-2022 Equity and Justice Strategic Plan are foundational to the Road Map.

**The Road Map is structured into three levels:**

- Objectives: Five overarching goals of Zero Youth Detention
- Strategies: Means for achieving the objectives
- Action Items: Specific steps or tactics to move the needle on strategies and objectives

**The work called for in this document is undertaken in collaboration with legal system leaders to continue juvenile legal system reform and improvements already underway in King County.**<sup>1,2</sup>

This Road Map reflects the broad spectrum of roles, responsibilities, and perspectives of those who oversee, operate, and support King County's juvenile legal system.<sup>3</sup> The nature of the issues involved with the juvenile legal system necessarily generates divergence in opinion and view. Thus, while there is consensus on a great deal of the recommendations and findings in the report and support for the direction of the Road Map, not all juvenile legal system actors are in agreement on every aspect of this report.

An overview of the objectives, strategies, and action items is included on the following pages.

*Please note that only a sample of action items are included in the executive summary.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The term "legal system" includes youth not only the criminal legal system, but also children and families involved with the child welfare dependency system, children in need of services, at risk youth, and/or school truancy matters.

<sup>2</sup> Due to historic injustices and inequities experienced in the "justice system" by people of color, people living in poverty, immigrants and refugees, people living with disabilities, and those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer, the Zero Youth Detention project and this Road Map uses the term "legal system" instead of "justice system."

<sup>3</sup> King County Executive, King County Superior Court, King County Prosecutor, King County Sheriff, and the King County Department of Public Defense.

## Objective 1: Lead with racial equity

---

By leading with racial justice in the work of Zero Youth Detention, all stakeholders involved with the juvenile legal system are being called to commit to addressing systemic institutional racism and bias and to align efforts through this deeply challenging work.

### Strategies:

- A. Identify and eliminate policies that result in racial disproportionality
- B. Invest in the workforce<sup>4</sup>

The strategies and action items for this objective recognize that, to eliminate the policies and practices that result in racial disproportionality, King County's workforce must be supported to continue and expand their work in solidarity with creating systems that lead to happy, healthy, safe, and thriving youth and families.

### Action items include:

- Implement a racial equity impact analysis on current and future policies and practices
- Set racial equity improvement goals, providing cross agency and system access to regular reports and data
- Emphasize and expand the recruitment, hiring, and retention of culturally reflective staff at all levels
- Expand culturally responsive trainings for all who interface with legal system involved youth

## Objective 2: Prevent youth from entering the juvenile legal system by focusing upstream and on systems to have the greatest impact

---

This objective recognizes partnership between youth and families, schools and communities, and the County is needed to enhance positive youth development and help position the youth on a healthy life course.

### Strategies:

- A. Support development of restorative policies and practices to keep youth engaged in school
- B. Provide access to high quality, community based services for youth and families
- C. Support community based response to youth and families in crisis so that legal system involvement is rare and the last resort

Understanding adolescent brain development, protective factors, and the role of resilience is foundational to upstream prevention efforts for youth.

### Action items include:

- Convene school partners to improve school discipline practices
- Continue and grow sustained investments in robust community options to serve high needs youth and families
- Expand culturally responsive evidence based and/or promising behavioral health practices for youth outside of and prior to involvement with the juvenile legal system
- Modify existing crisis intervention training for law enforcement to include specific modules on adolescent brain development and skills for addressing youth in crisis

---

<sup>4</sup> Workforce in the Road Map references King County employees.

### Objective 3: Divert youth from further law enforcement, formal legal processes, and secure detention into community based options

---

This objective calls on legal system partners and community to work together to create an effective continuum of community-based approaches, accessed at different points in the juvenile legal process, that provide for community safety and for the developmental needs of youth.

**Strategies:**

- A. Divert youth from law enforcement arrest and/or citation
- B. Divert youth from referral, case filing, and adjudication
- C. Divert youth from secure detention

Diverting youth out of the juvenile legal system, or to the least restrictive environment based on their individual needs while ensuring community safety, is usually in the best interest of youth.

**Action items include:**

- Convene law enforcement and communities to develop and test alternative responses to formal arrest
- Expand Community Empowered Disposition Alternative and Resolution (CEDAR) program, an “expedited” case processing track
- Partner with community providers to expand use of electronic home monitoring (EHM) for youth

### Objective 4: Support youth and families to reduce recurrence of legal system involvement and increase healthy outcomes

---

The objective recognizes that young people who remain in their own community generally have better outcomes after contact with the juvenile legal system. However, when community-based resources are not a viable option and a youth must be placed in secure detention as a last resort, family engagement and reentry supports are essential.

**Strategies:**

- A. Expand family engagement opportunities and connections
- B. Reengage youth from detention into community
- C. Ensure detained youth receive trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate care and services

Support youth and their family in their communities so that they achieve their full potential; youth do not return to the legal system; negative impacts to their lives are minimized; and their inherent strengths and skills are promoted.

**Action items include:**

- Continue to expand visitation access to youth in detention
- Link youth exiting detention and their families with community ambassadors, credible messengers, community navigators and mentors and other supports

- Explore and pilot probation models that incorporate the principles of adolescent development
- Provide professional development training on trauma-informed care, adolescent brain development, implicit bias, undoing systemic racism, and other best practices to all county staff serving youth

## Objective 5: Align and optimize connections between systems to increase effectiveness

---

When systems work together, the people they serve benefit. This objective recognizes that youth and families are often served by multiple systems and more can be done between and among systems to better coordinate.

### Strategies:

- A. Align systems through common goals, outcomes, and indicators
- B. Utilize data and technology to optimize connections between legal, community, and services systems
- C. Support policy reform that improves the lives of youth, children, and families and reduces legal system involvement

### Action items include:

- Jointly develop legal system related outcomes for children and youth across King County government executive departments and separately elected entities
- Integrate child welfare and dependency outcomes into juvenile legal strategies and programming
- Renew/reform Uniting for Youth collective action table to actively collaborate on, monitor, and address outcomes; and add labor representatives to table
- Support, enhance, and expand data sharing between and among King County departments and agencies and community
- Support state legislation that provides state funding for youth to access behavioral health services before coming into contact with the juvenile legal system, including adding inpatient behavioral health treatment beds

### **Measuring Impact.**

The Road Map includes initial baseline metrics for the first four objectives; metrics for measuring impact of Objective 5 are not included in this report. They will be developed and incorporated in the next phase of Zero Youth Detention work. As specific strategies, policies, and practices are implemented, definitions of success will be identified along with measures and targets for further analyzing the impact and progress of the Zero Youth Detention work. Reporting on the progress toward objectives and adjustments to this plan will be accomplished through the establishment of a Zero Youth Detention data dashboard and through required reports due to the King County Council each June through 2021 regarding the County's efforts to reduce the use of secure detention.

### **Community and Employee Engagement.**

A wide array of perspectives were sought on the development of this Road Map from across the county, with a particular emphasis on those most impacted by the juvenile legal system. The insights of King County employees were also sought to inform this work. The format of engagement included community meetings and focus groups, employee focus groups, digital surveys, and case examples from those involved in the juvenile legal system:

- 182 community members participated in community meetings and focus groups, with 79 employees participating in employee focus groups
- 2,132 King County residents and 142 employees responded to the digital survey
- 19 parents or guardians and 12 youth participated in case examples

### **Clear challenges come with undertaking Zero Youth Detention work.**

It is difficult and it is complex. The lack of behavioral health resources, strained community capacity, the County's structural deficit and lack of resources, the resistance of some organizations to embrace and manage change, and the polarization of public opinion are some of the broad challenges involved with Zero Youth Detention. Better data is needed. Underscoring these challenges is the reality that there is no recipe for success. This work is at the forefront of innovative public policy.

### **Zero Youth Detention is a bold, complex, and difficult to achieve goal.**

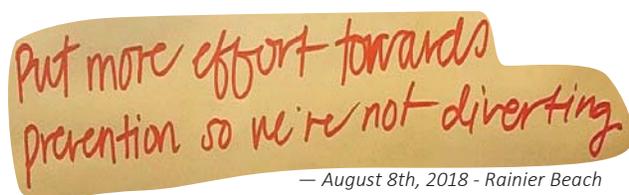
It is also a goal that may be misunderstood as reducing accountability for youth, risking community safety, or ignoring the needs of youth and families in crisis. The objectives, strategies, and actions outlined in this Road Map reflect the opposite. This strategic plan is also a Road Map to Stronger Accountability and Community Safety, a Road Map to Better Youth & Family Outcomes, and a Road Map to Eliminate Racial Disproportionality in Secure Detention. All of these are the expected milestones of this journey.

### **This Road Map is a work in progress.**

The Road Map's ultimate destination is Zero Youth Detention, but the journey itself is expected to yield changes in systems, policies, and services leading to better outcomes for youth and communities. To drive this work, King County is using the public health approach for Zero Youth Detention, bringing together community and system partners guided by the latest science on positive youth development to understand and implement what best promotes the well-being of youth and families and community safety. In addition to the work already underway and the investments the Executive is recommending in the 2019-2020 budget, the next phase of work will accelerate the actions in the Road Map. Next steps include identifying potential funding sources; convening and consulting with community, employee, and labor partners; developing metrics, and reporting on progress.

## Introduction

These recommendations have come through many avenues: drawn from community developed, community led, or community informed recommendations provided to the County over the last few years<sup>5</sup>. They were informed from recent community engagement sessions; from individual interviews with youth and families involved in the juvenile legal system; and from juvenile legal system employees through employee focus groups. The recommendations in this Road Map are informed by experts in brain science, adolescent development, trauma-informed treatment, and resilience. They build on goals and principles of the King County 2016-2022 Equity and Justice Strategic Plan<sup>6</sup>. It is important to note that is a work in progress. It will be updated and revised based on programmatic outcomes, available funding and new data and evolving science, along with community and employee guidance and input.



— August 8th, 2018 - Rainier Beach  
Community Conversation

Please note that feedback gathered from youth and families who participated in community engagement sessions are included throughout this document, shown in their own words.

In addition, quotes from case examples from youth and families are included throughout the document with their permission. Names have been changed and identifying details removed.

A glossary of terms used in this document is included as Appendix A.

This Road Map reflects the broad spectrum of roles, responsibilities, and perspectives of those who oversee, operate, and support King County's juvenile legal system.<sup>7</sup> The nature of the issues involved with the juvenile legal system necessarily generates divergence in opinion and view. Thus, while there is while there is consensus on a great deal of the recommendations and findings in the report and support for the direction of the Road Map, not all juvenile legal system actors are in agreement on every aspect of this report.

The objectives, strategies, and action items in this plan reflect, build on, and expand the exceptional, innovative work by community partners and organizations, Superior Court, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and executive departments in collaboration with employees. Moreover, the recommendations set the stage to eliminate racial disproportionality in secure detention; improve prevention and diversion efforts so that, until detention is eliminated, it is the last resort; and provide more effective services, and support better life course outcomes for the youth and families served by the juvenile legal system of King County.

This strategic plan is King County's map of the journey toward Zero Youth Detention.

<sup>5</sup> 2017 Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Recommendations - Appendix B  
2018 Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Diversion Recommendations - Appendix C  
Youth Action Plan. [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King\\_County\\_Youth\\_Action\\_Plan.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King_County_Youth_Action_Plan.ashx?la=en)  
Treehouse/TeamChild Big Shift Policy Paper - Appendix D  
Community Consortium Recommendations - Appendix E  
Trupin, Eric. (2017). Working to Reduce the Use of Secure Confinement: A review of King County's Children and Family Justice Center

<sup>6</sup> King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2022. .  
<https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/strategic-plan.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> King County Executive, King County Superior Court, King County Prosecutor, King County Sheriff, and the King County Department of Public Defense.

## **Acknowledgements**

This report reflects the investment of hours of time, energy, and hard work by a number of committed individuals.

The King County Zero Youth Detention Interbranch Team performed the research and brought the expertise to develop and compile this report: Jesse Anderson, Rhonda Berry, Sheila Capestany, Dr. Meg Cary, Zac Davis, Lea Ennis, Michael Gedeon, Cristina Gonzalez, Patrick Hamacher, Elizabeth Haumann Ford, Jimmy Hung, Celia Jackson, Natasha Jones, Pam Jones, Martine Kaiser, Anita Khandelwal, Carla Lee, Kapena Pflum, Claudia Pineda Reyes, Jorene Reiber, Denise Rothleutner, Elly Slakie, Marcus Stubblefield, Stephan Thomas, Angela Toussaint, David Topaz, Matias Valenzuela, and Sarah Wilhelm. Thanks to Isabelle Celentano for the report's graphic design.

Special thanks go to the numerous organizations and individuals who participated in focus groups, interviews, and community conversations, provided recommendations, and responded to surveys. A further debt of gratitude is due to the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee and the Children and Youth Advisory Board whose guidance was clear and unwavering. The broad, county-wide, comprehensive perspective this report contains would not have been possible but for the dedication of those individuals and organizations.

This work builds upon the efforts of other King County efforts and initiatives, including but not limited to the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy; the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan; Best Starts for Kids, and the Youth Action Plan. Thank you to the King County and community leaders working every day to help the residents of Martin Luther King Junior County reach their full potential.

A final, huge thank you to Kelli Carroll, Director of Special Projects in the Office of King County Executive Dow Constantine, who led and guided this project.

## Why the Road Map is Necessary

Driven by research, data, and an evolving understanding of youth development and the impact of detention on youth and community safety; ignited by the need to confront and work to undo systemic racism and biases; and, in recognition that much is being done across the county and region to better serve youth and families, this Road Map unites and focuses an array of efforts. It is a collaboration platform for internal County partners, and an invitation to external stakeholders and communities to work in partnership. It expresses the priorities and values of one King County working together for public good.

### Better Outcomes for Youth and Safer Communities

The research is clear: youth have a better chance at a positive adulthood when they don't interact with the juvenile legal system. A report from the Justice Policy Institute aggregating national data states:<sup>8</sup>

- Literature review of youth corrections shows that detention has a profoundly negative impact on young people's mental and physical well-being, their education, and their employment.
- One study found that for one-third of incarcerated youth diagnosed with depression, the onset of the depression occurred after they began their incarceration, and another suggests that poor mental health, and the conditions of confinement together conspire to make it more likely that incarcerated teens will engage in suicide and self-harm.
- Economists have shown that the process of incarcerating youth will reduce their future earnings and their ability to remain in the workforce, and could change formerly detained youth into less stable employees.
- Educational researchers have found that upwards of 40 percent of incarcerated youth have a learning disability, and they will face significant challenges returning to school after they leave detention.
- Research suggests that the experience of detention may make it more likely that youth will continue to engage in delinquent behavior, and that the detention experience may increase the odds that youth will recidivate, further compromising public safety.

#### WHAT VICTIMS SAY

By a margin of 7 to 1, victims prefer increased investments in crime prevention and programs for at-risk youth over more investments in prisons and jails.

By a margin of 2 to 1, victims prefer more investment in community supervision, such as probation and parole, to more investment in prisons and jails.

By a margin of 3 to 1, victims prefer holding people accountable through options beyond just prison, such as rehabilitation, mental health treatment, drug treatment, community supervision, or community service.

- Crime Survivors Speak  
Alliance for Safety and Justice

<sup>8</sup> Justice Policy Institute (2006). *The Dangers of Detention*.  
[http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/06-11\\_REP\\_DangersOfDetention\\_JI.pdf](http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/06-11_REP_DangersOfDetention_JI.pdf)

Research shows that there is little relationship between youth incarceration and overall youth crime in the community: “Incarceration of youth...is often viewed as a necessary means of public protection, (and) research indicates that it is not an effective option in terms of either cost or outcome.”<sup>9</sup>

King County’s experience in many ways mirrors this research. It has made many improvements in line with research. The use of secure detention has decreased by 77 percent from 1998 to 2017. During that time, the number of felony offender cases – which are the more serious ones from a community safety perspective – filed in King County have decreased by 75 percent.<sup>10</sup>

Throughout the development of the path to Zero Youth Detention, the question of what Zero Youth Detention implies for victims has arisen. A national survey of crime survivors conducted by the Alliance for Safety and Justice finds that most crime victims prefer investments in programs for at-risk youth, community supervision, and holding people accountable through means other than incarceration.<sup>11</sup>

A key component of Zero Youth Detention is that accountability for harmful behavior happens swiftly and in a restorative way. Restorative justice practices focus on repairing harm through reconciliation of all parties impacted. It starts the process of healing and transformation for both the individual who was harmed and the individual who caused the harm. The concept of restorative justice brings those harmed by criminal behavior, those who cause the harm, and the larger involved community together to discuss how they have been affected by the behavior and to decide what should be done to repair the harm. When done most effectively, restorative justice is a community-based approach to accountability, safety, and healing. Restorative justice has been shown to reduce recidivism and produce greater satisfaction for victims of crime.<sup>12,13</sup> It is discussed in more detail on page 19.

The Road Map includes practical solutions undertaken in partnership with communities and systems that are designed to improve community safety and help young people thrive by keeping them from entering the juvenile legal system, diverting them from further juvenile legal system involvement, and supporting strong communities.

## ZERO YOUTH DETENTION THEORY OF CHANGE

By partnering with and maximizing strengths of youth and families in community and limiting legal system involvement in the lives of youth, community safety is enhanced and King County’s youth have the opportunity to be happy, healthy, safe, and thriving.

<sup>9</sup> Lambie, Ian, Randell, Isabelle (2013). *The Impact of Incarceration on Juvenile Offenders*. Auckland, NZ. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 33: 448-459. [http://www.academia.edu/29633592/The\\_impact\\_of\\_incarceration\\_on\\_juvenile\\_offenders](http://www.academia.edu/29633592/The_impact_of_incarceration_on_juvenile_offenders)

<sup>10</sup> Data provided by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget.

<sup>11</sup> *Crime Survivors Speak* (2016). Alliance for Safety and Justice. Washington, DC. <https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/crimesurvivorsspeak/>

<sup>12</sup> *Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Programs* (2017). U.S. Department of Justice. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/250995.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Bouffard, Jeff et al. (2016). *The Effectiveness of Various Restorative Justice Interventions on Recidivism Outcomes among Juvenile Offenders*. *Journal of Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, Volume: 15 issue: 4. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1541204016647428>

## Historical and Current Systemic Inequities & Racial Disproportionality

Any discussion of criminal “justice” and social service systems occurs in the context of historic and present day systemic racism whose remnants – seen and unseen – affect how these systems operate today. The effects of this are evident in the persistent racial disproportionality experienced by people of color with all systems and structures including housing, education, economics, and the juvenile legal system.<sup>14</sup>

Youth and families of color are at higher risk of becoming involved in the juvenile legal system due in large part to the cumulative disadvantages they have experienced.<sup>15,16,17</sup> White, heterosexual, and cisgender youth from intact families who speak English and were born and raised in this country have the advantages of public services built to serve people with their demographics by people who mirror their social identities.<sup>18</sup> Although all families that are involved with the juvenile legal system experience conflict and crisis, youth of color have specific experiences of marginalization from social institutions that are different than White youth.<sup>19,20</sup> Research shows that youth of color also experience over-policing and oppression in ways White youth do not.<sup>21,22,23</sup> The consequences of generations of people who are treated in this way results in cumulative disadvantages. Absent the Determinants of Equity, the broad social, physical, and economic conditions that contribute to or reduce peoples’ ability to thrive, youth of color and their families suffer, including becoming involved with the juvenile legal system. In this context, the cultural tendency is to blame the people who have been victimized by the negligence of systemic infrastructure. Without *intentionally* taking measures to recognize and address this history and its legacy, progress on the road to Zero Youth Detention will be significantly limited. Please see Appendix G for more information on the Determinants of Equity.

King County’s experience with juvenile legal reform illustrates this point. During the over nearly 20 years of reform work with its partners, King County has seen remarkable reductions in the use of secure detention and the number of cases referred to and filed in juvenile court. In absolute numbers, the number of youth of color

---

<sup>14</sup> For further information on the context of systemic racism, please see Appendix F.

<sup>15</sup> Mental Health America. (2010-2014). *Black and African American Communities and Mental Health*. <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/african-american-mental-health>

<sup>16</sup> Badger, Emily, et al. *The New York Times*. (2018). *Extensive Data Shows Punishing Reach of Racism for Black Boys*. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/19/upshot/race-class-white-and-black-men.html>

<sup>17</sup> Gross, Samuel, et al. (2017). *Race and Wrongful Convictions in the United States*. National Registry of Exonerations. [http://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Documents/Race\\_and\\_Wrongful\\_Convictions.pdf](http://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Documents/Race_and_Wrongful_Convictions.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> “Cisgender” is a term for someone who exclusively identifies as their sex assigned at birth. The term cisgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, hormonal makeup, physical anatomy, or how one is perceived in daily life.

<sup>19</sup> S. Nurius, Paula & Prince, Dana & Rocha, Anita. (2015). *Cumulative Disadvantage and Youth Well-Being: A Multi-Domain Examination with Life Course Implications*. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. 32. 10.1007/s10560-015-0396-2. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276126483\\_Cumulative\\_Disadvantage\\_and\\_Youth\\_Well-Being\\_A\\_Multi-Domain\\_Examination\\_with\\_Life\\_Course\\_Implications](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276126483_Cumulative_Disadvantage_and_Youth_Well-Being_A_Multi-Domain_Examination_with_Life_Course_Implications)

<sup>20</sup> Although youth of color and those from intersecting identities have different cultural experiences, ethnic minorities experience injustice because they are not white.

<sup>21</sup> Ross CT (2015). *A Multi-Level Bayesian Analysis of Racial Bias in Police Shootings at the County-Level in the United States, 2011–2014*. *PLoS ONE* 10(11): e0141854. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0141854>  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0141854>

<sup>22</sup> Crutchfield RD, Skinner ML, Haggerty KP, McGlynn A, Catalano RF. *Racial Disparity in Police Contacts*. *Race and justice*. 2012; 2(3):10.1177/2153368712448063. doi:10.1177/2153368712448063.

<sup>23</sup> Gase LN, Glenn BA, Gomez LM, Kuo T, Inkelas M, Ponce NA. *Understanding Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Arrest: The Role of Individual, Home, School, and Community Characteristics*. *Race and social problems*. 2016; 8(4):296-312. doi:10.1007/s12552-016-9183-8.

in detention is much lower than 20 years ago. Yet, despite the reduced detention population over this period, racial disproportionality worsened, as shown in Tables 1 and 2 below. The County’s past efforts, which were aligned with national best practices at the time, were not able to successfully address the needs of youth of color or the underlying causes of disproportionality.

- *Diversion Alternatives*
  - *After school mentoring and tutoring programs*
  - *No police officers at schools.*
  - *In school interventions/resolutions*
  - *crisis specialist in the schools from the community.*
  - *culturally effective teachers.*
  - *more male teachers.*
  - *more African American Teachers.*
- August 8th, 2018 - Rainier Beach Community Conversation

Table 1

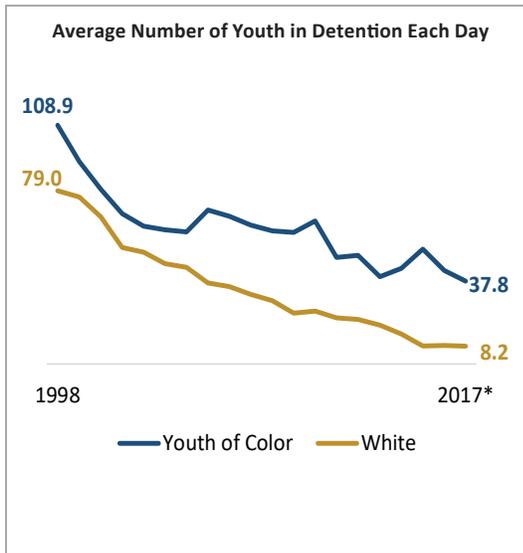
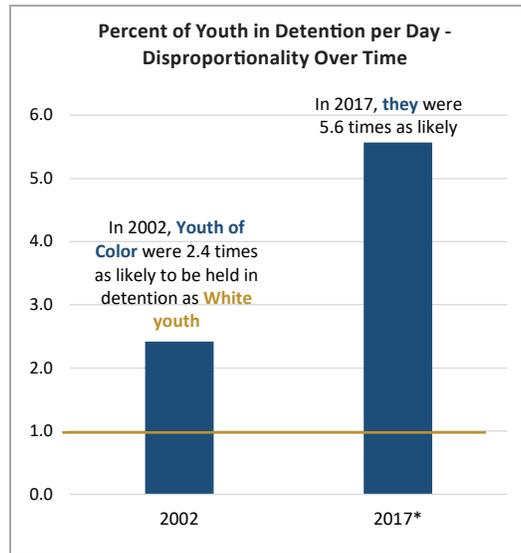


Table 2



\*Excludes youth held in detention on adult matters.

Talented and passionate professionals work in the juvenile legal and social service systems and there are many success stories of youth and families assisted by these dedicated professionals. However, professionals in all work settings are influenced by the systems in which they work and the society in which they live. The policies, rules, and assumptions of the juvenile legal systems may unintentionally limit youth-serving professionals’ ability to support youth of color and their families. Another example is implicit bias. As a result of a long history of racism and negative stereotypes in our society, individuals in all walks of life can act or make judgements in ways that disadvantage people of color. The juvenile legal and social services systems are not immune to this kind of implicit bias. Cumulatively, these factors impact use of detention and the legal system’s involvement in the lives of youth of color and their families.

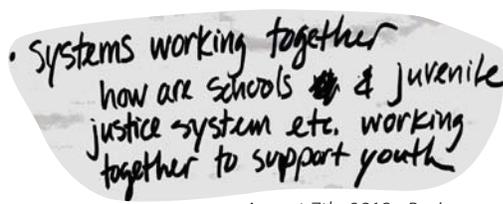
Eliminating the impacts of racism at the individual, institutional, and structural levels means both acknowledging it exists and actively working to dismantle it. The Road Map calls for applying a racial equity lens to legal system policies at every decision point, to ensure that until detention can be eliminated, it is a last resort and not as a consequence of racism and bias.<sup>24</sup> Through its Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Strategic Plan, King County has begun this work and the Road Map will build on and connect to existing ESJ efforts.

<sup>24</sup> “Equity,” as defined in King County’s Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, is the “full and equal access to opportunities, power and resources so all people achieve their full potential and thrive. Equity is an ardent journey toward well-being defined by those most negatively affected.”

In recognition that despite the reduction in the use of detention, a corresponding decrease in racial disproportionality had not been achieved, the Executive chartered the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee (JJESC) in 2015 to inform actions that reduce disproportionality in the incarceration rates of Black, Latinx,<sup>25</sup> Native American and other youth of color in King County. Several recommendations of the Steering Committee have been implemented to date, including a mentoring program with the Federal Way Youth Action Team, the King County Sheriff's Office providing simplified Miranda rights language for juveniles based on understanding of the adolescent brain, and the Theft 3/Mall Safety pilot project, a pilot project designed to lower the number of youth theft cases and charges.

## Unify and Align Under Shared Vision

Much is being done across King County government among departments under the Executive's purview and under the leadership of the separately elected entities of the Superior Court, Prosecutor, and Sheriff in collaboration with communities and entities outside of King County government. A great deal of this work is aligned, but there is a need to further connect, focus, and leverage efforts that result in better life-course outcomes for youth and families. Collaboratively creating a consistent methodology for authentically engaging with communities most impacted by the juvenile legal system is necessary to inform and guide this work.



— August 7th, 2018 - Burien  
Community Conversation

Because a complicated array of systems serve youth and families, including physical and behavioral health, child welfare, education, legal, and housing, further alignment is needed between King County government and systems external to King County government. These systems exist in different levels of government (state, local, and federal), have their own policies and mandates, and comply with

different funding requirements. When these systems do not align or work at cross purposes with each other, youth and families suffer and are at greater risk of involvement with the legal system.

For example:

- Nineteen school districts in King County are governed by state statutes, each with their own elected governing body and administrators. They separately set their own school practices and policies. One area of research is exploring the effectiveness of zero-tolerance policies which affects the number of suspensions and expulsions, particularly for students of color, and the likelihood of those students coming into contact with the legal system. The approach to zero-tolerance policies and out-of-school suspensions varies greatly across school districts.
- Many schools employ police officers as School Resource Officers (SROs). How officers are used varies widely across districts and individual schools. In some cases, the focus is to protect students and in others it is to police the students. National data indicates that school based-referrals to law enforcement increased 10 percent from 2008-2013.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> For the purposes of uniformity with racial categorizations in federal data collection, the term "Hispanic" is used. However, when referring to people with origins from Latin America, the rest of the document uses the term "Latinx."

<sup>26</sup> Nance, Jason P. Students, Police, and the School-To-Prison Pipeline, 93 Wash. U. L. Rev. 919 (2016). [http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/law\\_lawreview/vol93/iss4/6](http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/law_lawreview/vol93/iss4/6)

Some youth with the most complex needs are involved in multiple systems at the same time, including: child welfare, juvenile legal, behavior health, and educational systems. Youth involved in multiple systems share certain characteristics: they are disproportionately youth of color; have strained family connections; have negative educational experiences; live at or below the poverty line; and may have behavioral health needs. When individual requirements and case plans imposed by each system are not coordinated, families and youth can be overburdened.

King County's adopted 2015 Youth Action Plan, which identified King County's priorities for serving young people, sets forth the overarching goal of ensuring that every child in King County reaches adulthood as happy, healthy, safe, and thriving.<sup>27</sup> To achieve this goal, this region is making major investments in long term solutions through levies such as Best Starts for Kids, the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, and Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action sales tax. These investments are seeking to support communities in creating the upstream conditions for youth and families to thrive.<sup>28, 29, 30, 31</sup> While the objectives and strategies in the Road Map align with these investments, the Road Map focuses on causes and contributors that have the most direct impact on the use of secure detention and the juvenile legal system.

REVISE IT PURPOSE OF SRO

— August 7th, 2018 - Burien  
Community Conversation

The Road Map is an invitation to internal and external systems to come together to further collaborate, share information, leverage investments, avoid duplication, and streamline endeavors to better serve youth and families.

---

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King\\_County\\_Youth\\_Action\\_Plan.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King_County_Youth_Action_Plan.ashx?la=en)

<sup>28</sup> "Invest upstream and where need greatest" is the first strategy of the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan. <https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/strategic-plan.aspx>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/initiatives/best-starts-for-kids.aspx>

<sup>30</sup> <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/initiatives/levy.aspx>

<sup>31</sup> MIDD website. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/mental-health-substance-abuse/midd.aspx>

## Background & Current Environment

The following information is a high level snapshot of the very complex juvenile legal system. It provides an overview of the structure and responsibility of King County’s juvenile legal system, along with a summary of a number of Zero Youth Detention-relevant issues, including the decline in the use of detention, racial disproportionality, the Children and Family Justice Center, and the current funding climate.

### Operation of the County Juvenile Legal System

The operation of King County’s juvenile legal system is a shared responsibility between the King County Executive and executive departments (Department of Public Defense and Adult and Juvenile Detention), King County Superior Court, and the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (PAO). Law enforcement is a function of individual jurisdictions, tribes and universities throughout the County. King County Sheriff contracts for law enforcement services with a number of cities within King County as well as with Sound Transit and Metro. The Prosecutor, judges, and the Sheriff are separately elected officials responsible for the policies and operations of their individual and independent branch or agencies. The King County Department of Public Defense is an executive branch department; it is guaranteed freedom from political interference by the King County Charter.<sup>32</sup> The King County Council is the policy setting body for King County Government.

The Executive operates the juvenile detention facility on behalf of the separately elected Superior Court. Superior Court has statutory responsibility for detention but may delegate it to the county executive. The Court has agreed to have the Executive operate the detention facility.<sup>33</sup> The Court adjudicates juvenile criminal matters, along with Becca and Dependency cases and utilizes alternatives to secure detention (such as electronic home monitoring), diversion and expedited case processing options to reduce the use of secure confinement for youth.<sup>34</sup> The Prosecutor files criminal cases against juveniles in the Court and prosecutes cases before the Court. The Department of Public Defense defends those who have been charged with crimes and who cannot afford attorneys.

### POLICY CHANGES REDUCING THE USE OF DETENTION

THE EXECUTIVE, THE COURT, & THE PROSECUTOR HAVE COLLABORATED ON A NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL POLICY REVISIONS THAT HAVE REDUCED THE USE OF DETENTION FOR YOUTH.

- Screen and Release Protocol allows youth presented to secure detention to be released immediately based on risk assessment findings.
- Tier 2 Warrant Expansion reduces the number of warrants that lead to youth detention by enhancing law enforcement’s ability to provide a new court date and release the youth in the field.
- FIRS Center where youth with an alleged family violence incident can be placed in the FIRS Center, a non-secure respite facility where the youth receives crisis stabilization services rather than detention.
- Detention Intake Criteria was revised to further limit list of offenses that a youth can be held on. The risk appraisal instrument was also revised.

<sup>32</sup> KCC 350.20.60

<sup>33</sup> Revised Code of Washington 13.20.060; King County Ordinance 13668

<sup>34</sup> A collection of three programs (Truancy, At-Risk Youth, and CHINS) developed from a 1995 legislative bill that addresses several areas of public policy, including those affecting truant, at-risk, and runaway youth. In King County, Superior Court is obligated to provide court services for families and school districts to help them meet their statutory and court-ordered obligations when filing Becca petitions.

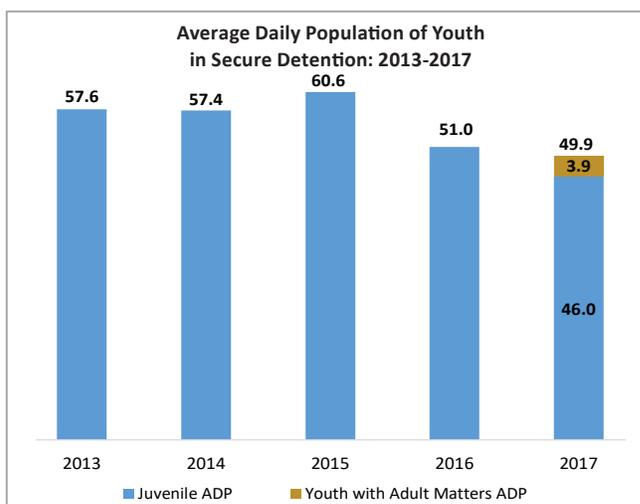
## Reduction in the Use of Detention

King County is a national leader in the reduction of the use of secure confinement of juveniles. Beginning in 1999, King County has seen a rapid decline in referrals into the juvenile legal system, filings by the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and in detention utilization. The results of this work are documented by data: between 2013 and 2017 alone, the average daily population of youth in secure detention **dropped 20 percent.**

These declines are due in large part to collaborations with communities and deliberate efforts by the Superior Court, Executive Departments, and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. These efforts have resulted in a 77 percent reduction in admissions to secure detention between 1998 and 2017.<sup>35</sup>

In addition, initiatives like the multi-phased Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan (JJOMP), Uniting for Youth, Reclaiming Futures and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), along with the King County Youth Action Plan, Best Starts for Kids and other initiatives have contributed to the reductions.<sup>36</sup> Please see Appendix H for secure detention data 1998-2017. Please see Appendix I for additional information on actions and programs underway to reduce the use of secure detention, decrease racial disproportionality, and better serve youth who are in detention. The objectives and strategies of the Road Map build on and integrate the distinct work underway by the Court, the PAO, and executive branch departments.

Table 3



## The Children and Family Justice Center

Discussion of background elements of the County’s juvenile legal system must include the County’s Children and Family Justice Center.

In August 2012, King County voters approved a nine-year property tax to finance a new Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC) on the current site of the Youth Services Center.<sup>37</sup> The project consists of replacing courtrooms, offices, and parking; and substantially reducing the capacity of and replacing the failing current detention facility. When completed, the CFJC will also include space for child welfare issues and proceedings, family treatment court, youth and family program space, a resource center, and childcare facilities for families on court business.

<sup>35</sup> Data provided by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget. This figure excludes youth charged as adults.

<sup>36</sup> Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan Ordinance 13916 Youth Action Plan. [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King\\_County\\_Youth\\_Action\\_Plan.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King_County_Youth_Action_Plan.ashx?la=en) Uniting for Youth & Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Best Starts for Kids. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/initiatives/best-starts-for-kids.aspx> Reclaiming Futures

<sup>37</sup> The King County Council voted 8-0 on Ordinance 17304, with one member excused, to place the measure on the August 2012 ballot.

Washington state law requires that counties provide a detention facility for juveniles.<sup>38</sup> When youth are required by the Court to be detained, it is necessary to have a physical environment that better meets the needs of youth than currently exists. The Executive, County Council, and Superior Court collectively determined, and voters agreed, that replacement of the existing court and detention facilities was the most fiscally prudent and flexible option to provide facilities that best meets the needs of children and families. As the County continues to drive reductions in the use of secure detention for juveniles, the detention housing units are constructed so that they can be easily converted to transitional units and/or community use space.<sup>39</sup>

The voter approved capital project funds that support the construction (including design, demolition, and equipping) of the CFJC are restricted by law to construction of the facility; they are not available for repurposing to operations or programs.

## Funding Climate

Available County funding for needed changes and improvements described in this plan is limited. The County's deeply constrained General Fund is the primary funding source for criminal legal services and programs, including Superior Court, District Court, the Sheriff, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Department of Public Defense. The General Fund must support the provision of statutorily required justice/legal services (adjudicating, prosecuting, or defending court cases; jail or detention; law enforcement) in the face of the ongoing and ever widening structural deficit, leaving few resources for new and innovative programs.<sup>40</sup> Despite constraints, the General Fund currently makes substantial financial investments in services aimed at achieving better outcomes for children, youth, and families, including preventing children and youth involvement in the juvenile legal system, as well as investments with the goal of reducing racial disproportionality within this system.

Levies such as the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) sales tax and Best Starts for Kids (BSK) and Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) property tax levies are another source of funding for services for youth and families. These taxes provide upstream prevention and early intervention funding, services, and programming to support families, children and youth in community so that youth and families are happy, healthy, safe, and thriving and fewer youth interface with the legal system. These investments align with the Zero Youth Detention Road Map, and in some cases levies can fund Zero Youth Detention initiatives, but levy funding for Zero Youth Detention activities is limited due to the restricted nature of levy funding, which adheres to specific voter and policy-maker designated funding areas. While current County investments are substantial, the need remains great for funding robust community supports, prevention, diversion, and reengagement services post detention.

---

<sup>38</sup> Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 13.16.030

<sup>39</sup> Scope and use of transitional units will be developed in partnership with community and providers.

<sup>40</sup> In this context, "structural deficit" means that the cost for providing existing services is growing at a rate faster than the revenue sources that support them.

## Fundamental Elements of the Road Map

Given the complex nature of the work, involvement of multi-systems and branches of government, many stakeholders, and evolving understanding of youth development, there are a few central components that figure prominently in the development and execution of the Road Map. Communities and employees identified the items in this section as among priority matters they wanted to see addressed by the Road Map and Zero Youth Detention overall. These fundamental elements are highlighted below; some have expanded discussion in an Appendix as noted.

### Development of the Road Map and Guiding Principles

An internal Zero Youth Detention project structure was put into place to guide and support the development of this plan. The work was guided by a Leadership Circle reflective of the spectrum of decision makers accountable for King County's juvenile legal system and included:

- Dow Constantine, King County Executive
- Judge Laura Inveen, Superior Court Presiding Judge
- Dan Satterberg, King County Prosecutor
- Mitzi Johanknecht, King County Sheriff
- Anita Khandelwal, Interim Director, Department of Public Defense
- Sheila Capestany, Strategic Advisor for Youth/Best Starts for Kids
- Rhonda Berry, Zero Youth Detention Project Director

An Interbranch team comprised of staff from King County executive departments and separately elected entities (Superior Court, the Prosecutor's Office, Public Health, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, Department of Public Defense, Office of the Executive, Department of Community and Human Services, and the Sheriff's Office) provided subject matter expertise and analysis for specific elements/areas of the Road Map, including development and review of the objectives, strategies, and action items in this document. Please see Appendix J for a list of Interbranch Team members.

To guide its work, IBT formulated five guiding principles to inform the creation of the objectives, strategies, and action items contained in this Road Map. The five guiding principles are shown here, with a more detailed discussion in Appendix K.

The values that drive these guiding principles demonstrate a commitment to healthy and thriving youth and families; understanding that Zero Youth Detention is multi-faceted work that requires King County to partner with many stakeholders in order to achieve the identified objective; cultivate communities where residents are safe and free from systemic oppression and marginalization; and continue building on successes. Moving forward, these guiding principles will serve to guide implementation of Zero Youth Detention Road Map activities.

#### ZERO YOUTH DETENTION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Make racially just and equitable decisions that relate to and/or address the root causes of racial inequity in the juvenile legal system.
2. Honor and celebrate the cultural identities of most impacted youth and families.
3. Prioritize voices and needs of youth and families.
4. Support those who provide services.
5. Accountable and transparent to communities and policymakers.

To ensure alignment with other county-wide initiatives, the guiding principle descriptions are similar in language and concepts to King County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, and other source documents resulting from work taken place in King County communities.<sup>41</sup>

## Restorative Justice

As noted earlier, a key component of Zero Youth Detention is accountability. To that end, it is important that consequences for misbehavior happen quickly and in a restorative way.

There is no one restorative justice program; rather, it is a suite of approaches focusing on healing and restoration. Restorative justice practices focus on repairing the harm that has fractured a relationship through reconciliation of all parties impacted and starts the process of healing and transformation. The practices of restorative justice bring together those harmed by criminal behavior, those who caused the harm, and the larger involved community to discuss how they have been affected by the behavior and to decide what should be done to repair the harm. The restorative justice approach addresses three questions 1) who was harmed; 2) what do they need; and 3) whose obligation is it to meet the needs of those harmed? Restorative justice approaches are provided within the detention facility by staff trained in the practice, as well as in community. It can occur during the formal legal process or outside of it. When done most effectively, restorative justice is a community-based approach to accountability, safety, and healing.

Unlike the traditional criminal justice approach that often focuses on punishment and labeling conduct, restorative justice achieves accountability by having individuals take responsibility for their actions, understand the harm they have caused, and provides an opportunity for redemption. This approach also provides an avenue for the harmed party (or parties) to heal, an opportunity to be directly part of the process, and to have their questions answered. It supports the dignity of those who were harmed and those who harmed.

Evidence shows restorative justice reduces recidivism and produces greater satisfaction for most crime victims than traditional court processes.<sup>42,43</sup> As such, restorative justice strategies have the potential to improve public safety and better meet the needs of those harmed by crime. Because restorative justice may reduce future re-offending, it also has the potential to reduce the use of detention, as many youth find themselves incarcerated due to repeat offending.

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE RESULTS

- In 2017, approximately 500 youth successfully completed Community Accountability Board diversions.
- Since the launch of the FIRS respite center in July 2016, more than 400 youth have avoided juvenile detention booking and connected with effective interventions without criminal charges being filed.
- Since launching the Restorative Mediation program in 2015, 24 youth have potentially avoided detention and had their cases reduced or dismissed.

<sup>41</sup> King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2022. <https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/strategic-plan.aspx>

<sup>42</sup> U.S. Department of Justice (2017). *Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Programs*. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/250995.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Bouffard, Jeff et al. (2016). *The Effectiveness of Various Restorative Justice Interventions on Recidivism Outcomes among Juvenile Offenders*. Denton, TX. *Journal of Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, Volume: 15 issue: 4.

In partnership with the PAO and community providers, Superior Court currently employs several restorative justice programs that encompass varying restorative approaches, highlighted below.<sup>44</sup> Details of these programs are included in Appendix L.

In addition to restorative justice within the juvenile legal system, restorative practices in educational and community settings can help to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline by moving away from punishment as an approach for managing behavior and towards promoting repair, growth and learning when conflicts occur.

**Community Accountability Boards** – The Community Accountability Boards (CABs) are one of the earliest restorative justice models. Via the CAB, youth who are accused of misdemeanor offenses are referred to a volunteer based CAB in their home community. Along with their caregiver, the youth will meet with the CAB volunteer panel to discuss the circumstances of the alleged offense and what is going on in the youth/family life. The CAB volunteers work with the family to craft a diversion agreement, which includes restoration of harm done. The CAB diversion process is voluntary and completion results in no charges being filed/no criminal history. In 2017, approximately 500 youth successfully completed CAB diversions.

**Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)** – FIRS is a restorative process designed specifically to address the unique harm caused by inter-familial violence on the part of youth against family members. Children who cause harm are immediately placed in respite care and families are engaged in ways that meet their needs.

**Restorative Mediation** – A partnership between King County Juvenile Court and King County Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution that employs a victim-offender mediation model, facilitated by a professional mediator and youth mediator.<sup>45</sup> The individual harmed and the youth are brought together to address the harm that was caused and to arrive at an agreed upon action plan for accountability, with input from the victim.

**Peacemaking Circle** – An approach influenced by Peacemaking Circles, adapted from the Tagish Tlingit Tribe originating from the Yukon Territory of Canada. To date, King County Juvenile Court has piloted this intensive, community-based intervention with four serious felony cases. Three of the four youth successfully completed the program and had no new juvenile filings during the time of their participation. Two of the three graduates avoided lengthy state incarceration sentences as a result of their successful engagement.

## Trauma-Informed Care & Public Health Approach

The Road Map and the path to Zero Youth Detention calls for a trauma-informed approach, where policies, strategies, and practices respond to the impacts of trauma and adversity among justice system-involved youth, including the recognition of how systems play a role in experiences of trauma.

A trauma-informed approach is increasingly considered part of an overall public health approach, and King County's Department of Public Health has recently embarked on an effort to become a trauma-informed, resilience-building health department. There is now a large body of research demonstrating that trauma and toxic stress, particularly when experienced by young people, can have lifelong impacts on health and well-being. Protective factors, resilience, and other supports mitigate the impacts of trauma. Public Health also now oversees programming in King County's Juvenile Detention Facility. See Appendix M for details on Public Health's trauma-informed efforts.

---

<sup>44</sup> *There is not unanimity among the entities within juvenile legal system regarding the use of restorative justice approaches for certain offense types.*

<sup>45</sup> <https://kcmemployees.com/2015/09/09/restorative-mediation-making-a-difference-for-youth/>

Juvenile legal system involved youth typically have experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) at a much higher rate than the general population.<sup>46</sup> Young people involved in the child welfare system are also more likely to become involved with the juvenile legal system.<sup>47</sup> In addition to the heavy burden of childhood trauma that many juvenile legal system involved youth have encountered in their lives, the system itself can add to that trauma by separating young people from their families, peers, and communities. The acquisition of a criminal record often comes with additional challenges that contributes to trauma. Additionally, the intergenerational and racialized impacts of the legal system and incarceration in our society cause deeper harm to youth. While these effects might be mitigated by providing a more therapeutic environment within detention facilities and the juvenile legal system, including programming to support youth, overall goals should focus on prevention of involvement in the juvenile legal system altogether.

A public health approach is a way to change a whole system to achieve better outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities. It is resilience-based, building on the strengths of families and communities. Applied to juvenile detention, a public health approach focuses on the well-being of youth, families, and communities to drive changes to services, systems, and root causes.

Foundational to a public health approach in juvenile detention is a focus on workforce development, including training detention staff on science based adolescent brain development and providing trauma-informed services. As noted in the box on the right, this vital work is already occurring.

In addition to the training and restorative practices currently happening, the following items are on the horizon:

- Free video visitation will become available to youth and families
- Equity and Social Justice workshops for youth
- Motivational interviewing training for staff

See Appendix M for a description of a public health approach to juvenile detention.

## WHAT'S ALREADY UNDERWAY?

Juvenile detention staff are committed to the well-being of youth in their care.

Here are some ways they are incorporating a trauma-informed, public health approach into their work:

- Training on crisis intervention and de-escalation
- Enhanced training on understanding the roots of adolescent behavior
- Peacemaking Circles Keeper's training
- Training on interpersonal communication and direct supervision
- Aggression Replacement Training

## CYAB RECOMMENDATION 1:

All who make decisions about the development and nature of the youth detention system are called upon to announce and adopt a public health perspective. (See Appendix O)

<sup>46</sup> Baglivio, Michael et al. (2014). *The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the Lives of juvenile offenders*. *Journal of Juvenile Justice*, 3. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284889607\\_The\\_prevalence\\_of\\_Adverse\\_Childhood\\_Experiences\\_ACE\\_in\\_the\\_lives\\_of\\_juvenile\\_offenders](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284889607_The_prevalence_of_Adverse_Childhood_Experiences_ACE_in_the_lives_of_juvenile_offenders)

<sup>47</sup> Washington State Center for Court Research. (2014). *Prevalence and Characteristics of Multi-System Youth in Washington State*. [https://www.courts.wa.gov/subsite/wscrr/docs/MultiSystemYouthInWA\\_Final.pdf](https://www.courts.wa.gov/subsite/wscrr/docs/MultiSystemYouthInWA_Final.pdf)

## Road Map Objectives and Strategies

The Road Map is organized as follows:

- **Objectives:** Five overarching goals of Zero Youth Detention
- **Strategies:** Means for achieving the objectives
- **Action Items:** Specific steps or tactics to move the needle on strategies and objectives that are further designated by expected launch time frame and level of County responsibility (discussed below).

As noted, these objectives, strategies, and action items are derived from community led/community informed recommendations previously provided to the County through the following documents and through internal county stakeholders, including employees who work directly with and serve youth and families.

- Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee Report (2017) and Diversion Recommendations (2018)<sup>48,49</sup>
- Youth Action Plan<sup>50</sup>
- Treehouse/TeamChild Big Shift Policy Paper<sup>51</sup>
- Community Consortium Recommendations<sup>52</sup>
- University of Washington Medicine Report<sup>53</sup>
- Children and Youth Advisory Board Recommendations<sup>54</sup>

The recommendations in this Road Map are informed by experts in brain science, adolescent development, trauma-informed treatment, and resilience.

**Time to Launch:** Within each objective and strategy, individual action items are arranged by timeframe, reflecting the expected time to launch or expand the specific activity. Factors for determining time horizons include: funding, staffing and labor, contracting needs, changing management needs, organizational capacity to undertake action, and environmental and political complexities. Please note that these are estimated timeframes, dependent on funding, staffing, and competing workloads.

- Short Term = 6 months – 2 years
- Medium Term = 2 – 4 years
- Long Term = 4+ years

*Note: not all strategies include medium or long term action items.*

**Level of County Responsibility:** The final aspect to the organization of the action items is the level of County responsibility for the specific action items in each strategy. Because the County alone cannot make progress on achieving Zero Youth Detention, the Road Map's action items are categorized into the following levels to clarify the County's role and scope expectations among internal and external stakeholders and partners.

*Note: not all strategies include items in each of the four levels of County responsibility.*

The objectives, strategies, and action items in this Road Map are subject to modification through implementation, feedback from partners or communities, or budget constraints.

---

<sup>48</sup> 2018 Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Diversion Recommendations Appendix B

<sup>49</sup> 2018 Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Diversion Recommendations Appendix C

<sup>50</sup> Youth Action Plan. [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King\\_County\\_Youth\\_Action\\_Plan.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King_County_Youth_Action_Plan.ashx?la=en)

<sup>51</sup> Treehouse/TeamChild Big Shift Policy Paper Appendix C

<sup>52</sup> Community Consortium Recommendations Appendix D

<sup>53</sup> Trupin, Eric. (2017). Working to Reduce the Use of Secure Confinement: A review of King County's Children and Family Justice Center

<sup>54</sup> Children and Youth Advisory Board Recommendations-Appendix O

Level of County Responsibility	
<p><b>Level 1:</b> County is solely and directly responsible</p>	<p>Where the County is or could be <b>solely and directly responsible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive branch departments: Community and Human Services, Public Health, Adult and Juvenile Detention, Department of Public Defense</li> <li>• Separately elected county entities: Superior Court, Sheriff, and the Prosecutor</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 2:</b> Partner</p>	<p>Where the County is or could be a <b>partner</b> (contractor/funder, including technical assistance, data or technology support)</p>
<p><b>Level 3:</b> Convener</p>	<p>Where the County is or could be a <b>convener</b> (bringing entities or jurisdictions together with the purpose of solving or making substantial progress toward solving an issue)</p>
<p><b>Level 4:</b> Influencer</p>	<p>Where the County is or could be an <b>influencer</b> (impacting related efforts or actions out of the county’s jurisdiction or role, such as lobbying for changes in statutes, etc.)</p>

**Measuring Impact: Data and Metrics**

Collecting and analyzing data has long been a focus of the juvenile legal system; data has built the case for Zero Youth Detention. The public health approach calls for the systematic measurement of issues, including examining risk and protective factors, overall population data and data hot spotting, and applying metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and the resulting population outcomes. Measurement data in this section and in each objective section has been prepared by the King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget.

To measure the impacts of the five Road Map objectives, four initial overall measures in two areas are identified, shown in the following table.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION	REFERRALS AND FILINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average daily population (ADP) of youth in secure detention is an important indicator of the use of detention.</li> <li>• The number is a function of both admissions and length of stay of youth in detention and provides a barometer of who is in detention each day, on average, in a given year.</li> <li>• Including race data with ADP enables the County to monitor impacts of policies and actions on specific populations.</li> </ul> <p><b>ADP Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average daily population in secure detention</li> <li>• Average daily population in secure detention by race</li> </ul>	<p>A referral is the front door to the County’s juvenile legal system. Because arrest data is not available to King County, referral data the closest approximation to arrest data currently available to the County.<sup>55</sup></p> <p>Referral numbers tell the volume of youth coming into the system by law enforcement. They are important to measure because they are the first decision point in the legal system; all referrals go to the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office where the decision whether or not to file a criminal case is made.</p> <p>Filings are the second decision point. This is where the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office determines how to handle a referral. Options include: a) sending the youth to an informal, out of the legal process diversion; b) opting not to file for reasons that include lack of evidence, age of youth, doesn’t meet the filing standards, improper jurisdiction, etc.; or c) to file a case with the Court.</p> <p><b>Referral and Filing Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of referrals and filings</li> <li>• Number of referrals and filings by race</li> </ul>

**Measure 1: Average daily population (ADP) of youth in secure detention.**

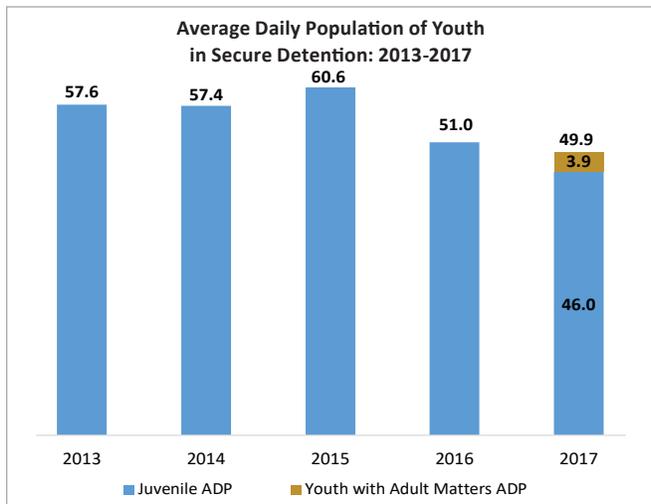
Methodology: The total number of youth in secure detention, on average, per day. The average daily population is based on admissions/bookings and average length of stay within the study period. This number includes both youth in detention on juvenile matters and youth in detention on adult matters.<sup>56, 57</sup>

<sup>55</sup> A referral is defined as: a recommendation submitted by law enforcement agencies to the Prosecutor’s Office upon conducting an investigation during suspected wrongdoing.

<sup>56</sup> Some youth are charged as adults based on age, criminal history, or seriousness of the alleged offense. These youth are held at the Youth Service Center until their 18th birthday and not in an adult facility.

<sup>57</sup> In December of 2017, all youth held in the adult facility were moved to the Youth Services Center, reflecting a county policy change. Thus, the data prior to 2017 does not include youth on adult holds who were housed in the adult facility.

Table 4



**DATA CALL OUT**

The average daily population in secure detention **dropped 20%\*** between 2013 and 2017

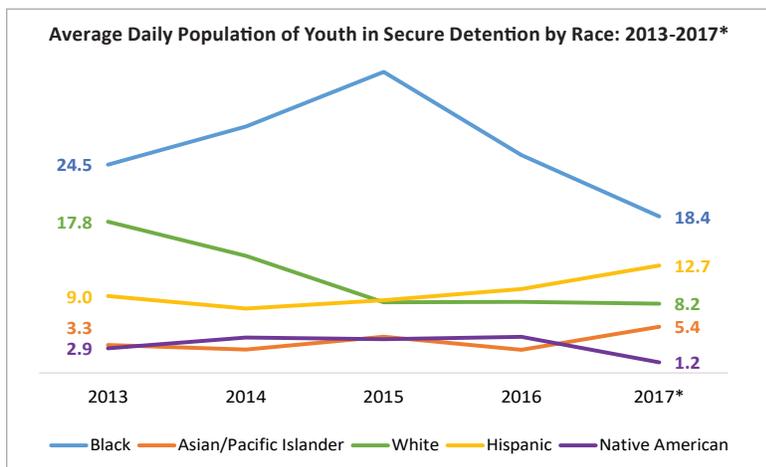
There are **11 fewer youth in detention** on juvenile matters per day, on average, than five years ago

\*Excludes youth in detention on adult matters.

**Measure 2: Average daily population of youth in secure detention by race from 2013 to 2017.**

Methodology: The number of youth in secure detention by race, on average, per day. ADP is based on admissions/bookings and length of stay within the study period.

Table 5

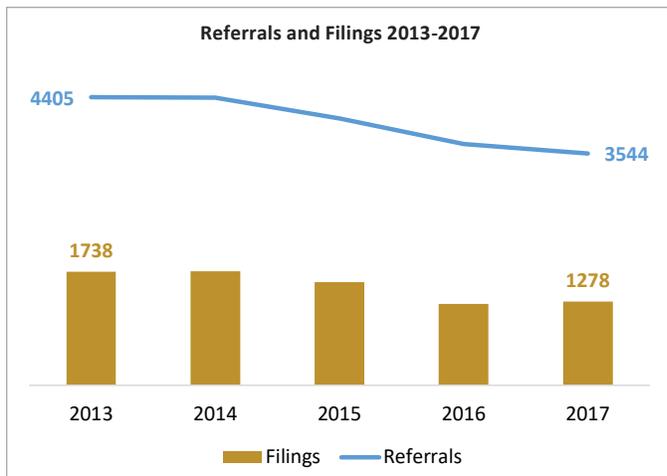


**DATA CALL OUT**

**2017:** Lowest number of Black youth in detention in King County since 1998

\*Excludes youth held in detention on adult matters.

Table 6



**Measure 3: Number of referrals and filings.**

Methodology: The number of referrals from law enforcement and other agencies to the PAO; number of filings in court by PAO. Data shown is 2013-2017.

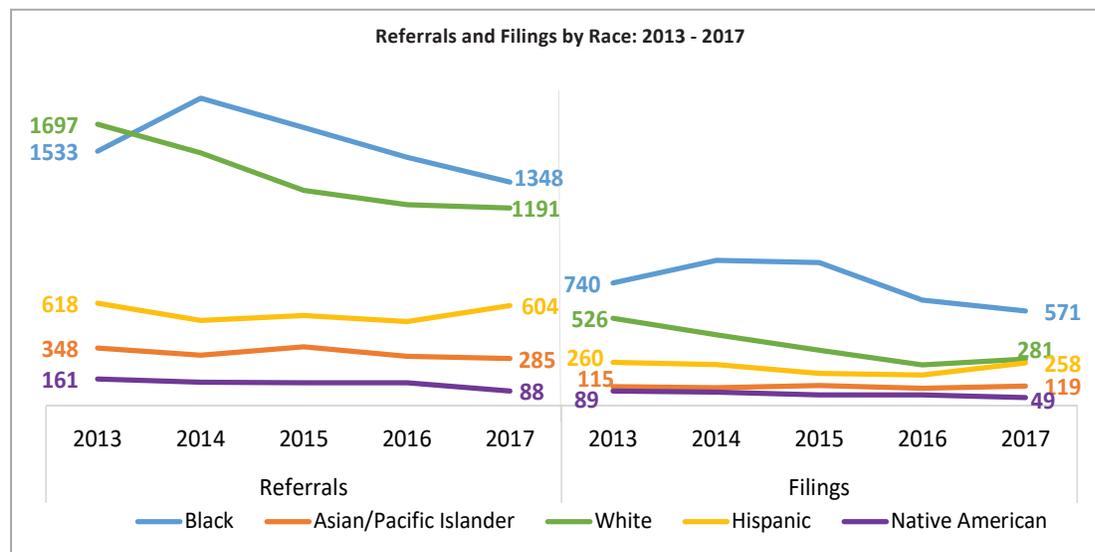
**DATA CALL OUT**

There were **20% fewer referrals** and **27% fewer filings** in 2017 than in 2013

**Measure 4: The number of referrals and filings by race.**

Methodology: The number of referrals of youth by race from law enforcement and other agencies to the PAO; number of filings in court by race by the PAO. Data shown is 2013-2017.

Table 7



The Road Map includes initial baseline metrics for the first four objectives; metrics for measuring impact of objective 5 are not included in this report. They will be developed and incorporated in the next phase of Zero Youth Detention work.

Moving forward, as specific strategies, policies, and practices are implemented, definitions of success will be identified along with measures and targets for further analyzing the impact and progress of the Zero Youth Detention work. The initial overarching Zero Youth Detention indicators may evolve based on stakeholders and community members suggesting additional or alternative measures. Additionally, a web presence is being created where the measures will be displayed and visitors can access data, including filtering it in different ways (such as by year and race). Reporting on the progress toward objectives and adjustments to this plan will be accomplished through data dashboard and through required reports due to the King County Council each June through 2021 regarding the County’s efforts to reduce the use of secure detention.

**DATA CALL OUT**

---

2014: First year referrals for **Black youth** surpassed referrals for **White youth**

Between 2013 and 2017: filings on **Black youth fell 23%** while **White youth filings were down 47%**

*What is county's role in these issues?*

— August 7th, 2018 - Burien Community Conversation



## Objective One: Lead

### LEAD WITH RACIAL EQUITY

From the thousands of perspectives used to inform this work via the Zero Youth Detention survey, it is clear that the residents of King County value the idea of fairness. Repeatedly, constituents shared in one iteration or another that everyone should be treated the same and equally under the law; people should have the same opportunities regardless of the color of their skin; and, race should not be a factor in how the law is applied.

These beliefs are the foundation of Objective 1. The stories and the statistics that King County has recorded over the decades, as well as the major, national research from the federal government and other national experts in the juvenile legal system, illustrate that these ideals are not what is happening within the juvenile legal system as well as other youth serving systems.

### EMBRACING CHANGE

*“Too often, we become overly concerned with who defines the problem and strategies, along with who gets the funding and credit, both of which override the larger goals we seek. We continue to speak for others, fail to include those we represent in decision making, do not think about hiring or including those we advocate for...”*

- Patrick M. George & Shirley Strong

*“On the Ground: Struggles and Lessons of Antiracism Work”*

Through the implementation of King County’s Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, King County committed to prioritizing racial justice throughout its work.<sup>58</sup> The Strategic Plan states, “(the) end goal is for equal access to opportunities, power and resources so all people may achieve their full potential.”

<sup>58</sup> King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2022.  
<https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/strategic-plan.aspx>

• Training + Cultural Responsiveness for all Officers working w/ young people  
- Adolescent brain development

— August 7th, 2018 - Burien Community Conversation

Superior Court data from 2017 shows that disparities among youth involved in the legal system are greatest based on race.<sup>59</sup> Youth of color are over represented in the juvenile legal system. Data collected from the King County Relative Rate Index in 2017 shows that youth who are Black or Hispanic are more likely to be referred into the juvenile legal system and to be detained pre-sentence (76 percent and 93 percent, respectively) than are White youth.<sup>60,61</sup> Between 2016 and 2017, referrals into the juvenile legal system by law enforcement decreased across all races, except for Hispanic youth, who experienced a 19 percent increase. During the same period, filings by the PAO decreased for Black and Native American youth, but increased for Hispanic, White and Asian/Pacific Islander youth. A study of inequity across the County also documented the persistent and detrimental injustice experienced by people of color.<sup>62</sup>

By leading with racial justice in the work of Zero Youth Detention, all stakeholders involved with the juvenile legal system are being called to commit to addressing systemic institutional racism and bias and to align efforts through this deeply challenging work. This call echoes the County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan and the adopted Youth Action Plan.<sup>63,64</sup>

Leading with racial justice involves the following five key components derived from recommendations from internal and external stakeholders, including communities, employees, and drawn from best practices in the evolving field of racial justice.

**1) Address internal systemic barriers that contribute to racial disproportionality in juvenile detention.**

Recognizing and eliminating biases and institutional racism in the juvenile legal system so that all youth can have the opportunity for a healthy, happy, safe, and thriving lives must be a shared priority and focus among all system partners.

**2) Align workforce towards common goals, outcomes, and shared understandings of equity.** The workforce of King County is the most important component in furthering the wellbeing of youth and their families. The workforce requires the ongoing tools and support of leaders to ensure the success of an aligned path.

**3) Refine or revise the Zero Youth Detention Road Map based on community feedback.** Input from those most impacted by the juvenile legal system, direct service providers, employees, and experts from the relevant fields must continue to inform the County's Road Map path, progress, and outcomes.

**4) Focus on communities that are inequitably impacted by the legal system.** Using a pro-equity approach, Zero Youth Detention strategies and actions are tailored for those most impacted. King County will use data, along with ethnic and racial critical analysis, to identify where disparities based on race exist, so collaborative, targeted, informed solutions can be developed.

<sup>59</sup> African American youth and Hispanic youth ages 10-17 represent 10 percent and 14 percent of all youth in King County, respectively. Black youth were 6.02 times more likely to be referred into the King County juvenile legal system than were White youth, and Hispanic youth were 1.9 times more likely. King County Juvenile Justice Statistics Comparison of 2016 to 2017 (2018) prepared by King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget.

<sup>60</sup> The Relative Rate Index is a high level indicator of disparity; it does not look at ethnic subgroups that may be categorized under race. <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/dmcdcb/asp/whatis.asp>.

<sup>61</sup> 2017 King County Relative Rate Index (2018) prepared by King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget.

<sup>62</sup> The King County Determinants of Equity Baseline Project, 2014. King County Determinants of Equity Baseline Report

<sup>63</sup> Youth Action Plan. [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King\\_County\\_Youth\\_Action\\_Plan.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King_County_Youth_Action_Plan.ashx?la=en)

<sup>64</sup> The King County Determinants of Equity Baseline Project, 2014. King County Determinants of Equity Baseline Report

**5) Use data and cutting edge scientific approaches to develop policies, practices, and deliver on outcomes.**

An extensive analytic framework was employed to scope recommendations and develop data in this Road Map. This approach will continue, based on recommendations by internal and external stakeholders that reiterated the importance of data informed decision making.

**Strategy A – Identify and eliminate policies and practices that result in racial disproportionality**

Historical data shows that policies and practices have been put into place across educational, housing, economic, physical and behavioral health care systems that have adversely impacted people of color and their families. Such examples include the No Child Left Behind policy where school discipline became a law enforcement issue; the practice of “red lining” in housing where families of color were prevented from living in certain areas; and, the War on Drugs where people of color are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, convicted, harshly sentenced and saddled with a lifelong criminal record.<sup>65</sup> For further information on the historical context of systemic racism, please see Appendix F.

The influence of these policies and practices has resulted in pervasive systemic racism, where people of color are marginalized and disadvantaged. National data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows that African-American, American Indian and Latinx children face some of the biggest obstacles on the pathway to opportunity.<sup>66,67</sup> Consequently, an intentional, focused, multi-system effort is necessary to eliminate such policies and practices to improve outcomes for youth of King County, specifically for youth of color.

*My son is in danger every single minute. I believe there are many more parents in my position. I have a brother who was kidnapped and I have experienced a lot of trauma in my life. This pain is not erased. I fear that my son will end up dead or harming others. If that ever happens, I want to know that I did everything in my power to get him help.*

See “Angel’s Story” in Appendix P

<sup>65</sup> Drug Policy Alliance (2018). *The Drug War, Mass Incarceration, and Race*.

<http://www.drugpolicy.org/resource/drug-war-mass-incarceration-and-race-englishspanish>

<sup>66</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). *Race for Results*. Baltimore, MD: <http://www.aecf.org/resources/race-for-results/>

<sup>67</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation uses the term “African American” in its data gathering and publications; this report uses the term “Black.”

Note: not all strategies include items in each of the four levels of County responsibility. Some strategies do not include medium or long term items.

<b>OBJECTIVE 1 STRATEGY A</b>
<b>IDENTIFY AND ELIMINATE POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT RESULT IN RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY</b>
<b>SHORT TERM ACTION ITEMS</b>
<b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement a racial equity impact analysis on current and future policies and practices</li><li>• Ensure alternative and diversion programs reach underserved youth</li></ul>
<b>LEVEL 2 - COUNTY AS PARTNER</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure equity in earliest youth contacts with the juvenile legal system by setting racial equity improvement goals, providing cross agency and system access to regular reports and data</li><li>• Assess and eliminate institutional factors that increase disproportionate outcome leading to entry into the juvenile legal system by conducting an analysis of racial disproportionality root causes<sup>68</sup></li><li>• Identify points in the legal process where racial disproportionality increases and develop recommendations to eliminate institutional or other biases at these points</li><li>• Expand the development and implementation of culturally responsive behavioral health approaches</li><li>• Comprehensively promote equity in the application of juvenile legal system policies, programs, and services across the following aspects:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◊ Racial</li><li>◊ Ethnic</li><li>◊ Income</li><li>◊ Gender</li><li>◊ Sexual Orientation</li><li>◊ Physical and developmental ability</li><li>◊ Behavioral health status</li></ul></li></ul>

**Strategy B – Invest in the workforce**

*Partnering with employees to further the wellbeing of youth and communities*

King County employees are on the forefront of enacting and furthering the elimination of racial disproportionality in secure detention. They continue to expand pockets of excellence already underway in this area. To eliminate the policies and practices that result in racial disproportionality, King County’s workforce must be supported to continue and expand their work in solidarity with creating systems that lead to happy, healthy, safe, and thriving youth and families. King County’s workforce and its leaders are embarking upon a deep, internal, long term and significant journey towards racial equity. This transition requires changes to processes, roles, structures and types and uses of technology. The workforce must be supported, prepared, and equipped to successfully sustain these changes.

<sup>68</sup> Root Causes defined as: The underlying or fundamental basis of a problem or situation.

The clinical research literature for serving youth of color in the juvenile legal system is limited. However, cutting edge science serving youth and families of color is clear on what is effective: culturally responsive, trauma-informed services provided by healthy, well-resourced people with parallel experiences who are highly skilled at engaging youth and families.<sup>69, 70, 71, 72, 73</sup> Building these components into the services the County provides will increase positive outcomes for youth of color and for White youth too. In the juvenile legal system, there are opportunities to implement curricula that explicitly addresses racial identity and oppression. There are also opportunities to develop partnerships with ethnic specific service providers, adopt race and ethnic specific behavioral health approaches, and to develop pipelines with the academic community to meet these needs. All components of the juvenile legal system should be examined for how cultural responsiveness could be incorporated.

<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1 STRATEGY B</b></p> <p>INVEST IN THE WORKFORCE</p> <p>SHORT TERM ACTION ITEMS</p>
<p><b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b></p>
<p>Emphasize and expand the recruitment, hiring, and retention of culturally reflective staff at all levels, including those that speak the language of those served</p>
<p><b>LEVEL 2 - COUNTY AS PARTNER</b></p>
<p>Expand culturally responsive trainings for all who interface with legal system involved youth, including county employees, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implicit bias</li> <li>• Adolescent brain development</li> <li>• Service delivery approaches</li> <li>• Existing services and system navigation</li> <li>• Specific cultural beliefs, traditions, language, religious practices, and systemic challenges</li> <li>• Dismantling systemic oppression</li> </ul>

<sup>69</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2013). *The Risk and Protective Factors Evidence-Based Programs for Young People Should Measure*. <http://www.aecf.org/m/blogdoc/understanding-riskandprotectivefactors-2013.pdf>

<sup>70</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2018). *Transforming Juvenile Probation: a Vision for Getting it Right*. <http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-transformingjuvenileprobation-2018.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> Finno-Velasquez, Megan, Pardini Jill K. (2018). *Intersection with Immigration and Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems: A Review of Research, Policy & Practice*. New Mexico State University School of Social Work. [http://cimmcw.org/wp-content/uploads/AECF-Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://cimmcw.org/wp-content/uploads/AECF-Report_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>72</sup> Knight, A., Maple, M., Shakeshaft, A., Shakeshaft, B., & Pearce, T. (2018). *Improving the evidence base for services working with youth at-risk of involvement in the criminal justice system: developing a standardised program approach*. *Health & Justice*, 6, 8. <http://doi.org/10.1186/s40352-018-0066-5>

<sup>73</sup> Cohen, Elena. (2010). *A Social Worker's Tool Kit for Working with Immigrant Families. Healing the Damage: Trauma and Immigrant Families in the Child Welfare System*. <https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/A%20Social%20Worker's%20Toolkit%20for%20Working%20with%20Immigrant%20Families.pdf>

**Measuring Objective 1:**

Measuring racial disparity in the justice system requires examining data in different ways: comparing a youth population in the county to their population in detention; looking at the rate of youth per 100,000; and finally, comparing one race to another.

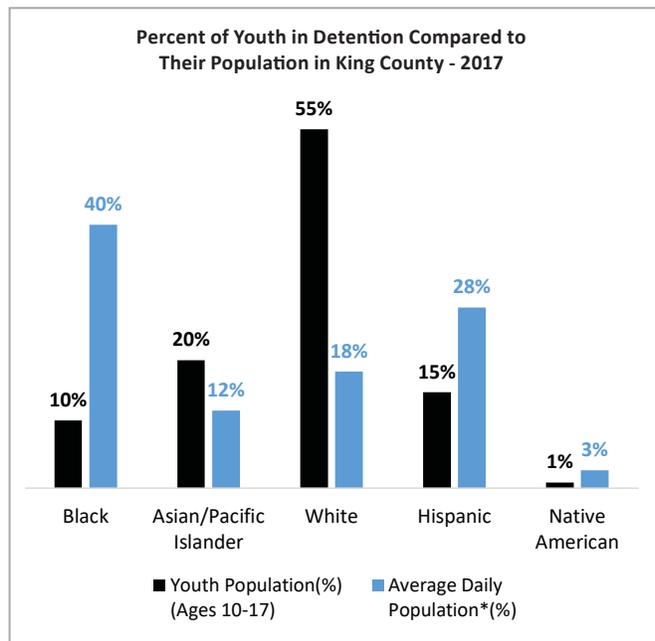
**Measure 1:** Average daily population of youth in secure detention compared to King County population, by race. 2017 data shown.

**Methodology:** Percent of youth population in King County and percent of the average daily population in King County secure detention by race.<sup>74</sup>

*- Examining policies + practices in place that affect POC once they enter the system*

— August 8th, 2018 - Rainier Beach Community Conversation

Table 8



**DATA CALL OUT**

Black, Hispanic and Native American youth are **overrepresented** in the County juvenile legal system

White youth make up the majority of the youth population in the county, and a **disproportionately smaller** percent of the detention population

\*Excludes youth held in detention on adult matters.

<sup>74</sup> National Center for Health Statistics, Bridged Race Estimates (2016). [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm)

**Measure 2:** Rate of youth in secure detention by race per 100,000 youth in King County for the years 2013 through 2017.<sup>75,76</sup>

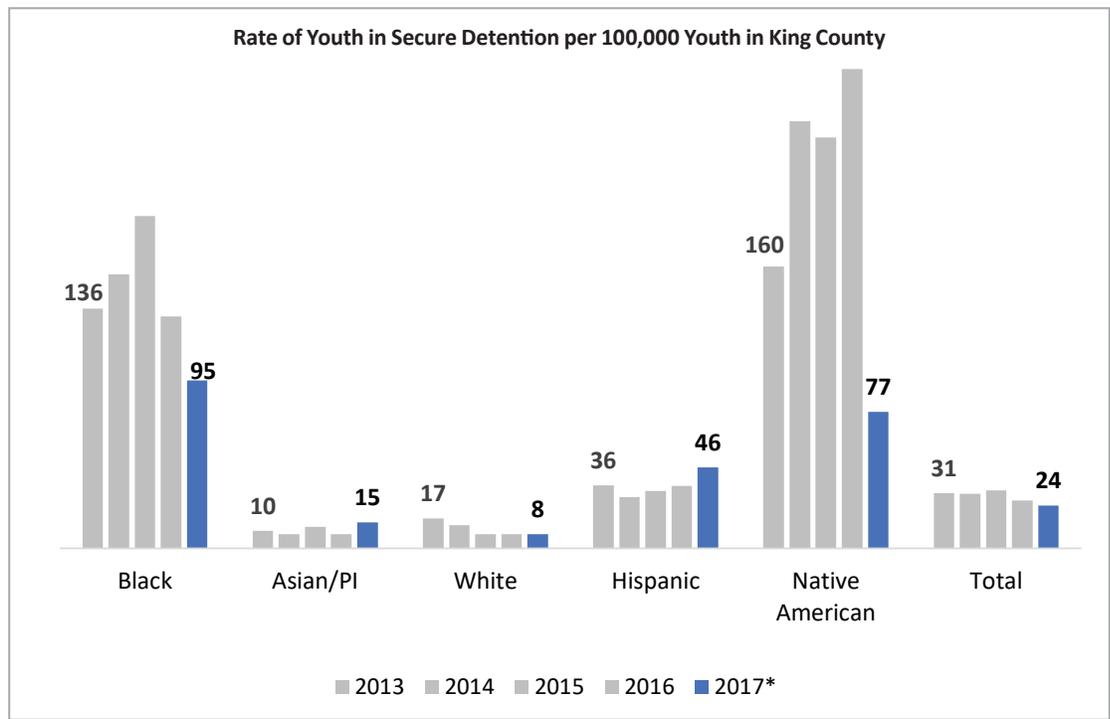
**Methodology:** By year, the average daily population of youth in secure detention by race divided by their youth population in King County and multiplied by 100,000.<sup>77</sup>

**DATA CALL OUT**

---

Despite a **reduced** detention population, **significant racial disparity remains**

Table 9



\*Excludes youth held in detention on adult matters.

<sup>75</sup> Based on the average daily population of youth in secure detention.

<sup>76</sup> National Center for Health Statistics, Bridged Race Estimates (2016). [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm)

<sup>77</sup> Note: A small youth population + an increasing daily detention population due to long lengths of stay of a few youth for serious person felony crimes drove up the Native American rate. In 2017, the daily population was 1.2, compared to 4.4 in 2016.



## Objective Two: Prevent

### PREVENT YOUTH FROM ENTERING JUVENILE LEGAL SYSTEM BY FOCUSING UPSTREAM AND ON SYSTEMS TO HAVE GREATEST IMPACT.

Understanding adolescent brain development, protective factors, and the role of resilience is foundational to upstream prevention efforts for youth.

Adolescence is a unique developmental period of significant brain refinement. During this time, the brain systems that drive emotional responses and risk taking mature faster than the executive function systems that regulate them.<sup>78</sup> Many of the behaviors typically associated with adolescents, such as peer focus, risk taking, and experimentation with drugs and alcohol, are due to this conflicting development. In addition, because of this developmental process, adolescents are particularly responsive to social influences, both positive and risky, and they tend to learn most effectively through exploration and experimentation. However, with time and learning, adolescents strengthen their abilities to control impulses, plan ahead, and regulate their emotions.<sup>79</sup> Simply, the normal process of adolescent brain development is to make risky choices for a period of time then to grow out of it. Supportive relationships help reduce the amount of risk and promote growing up.

*The police department is accustomed to receiving calls about us. Recently, the police told me to “stop calling unless it was an emergency”. Many times, I have felt unsafe when Tyrell has been abusive and violent. The police do not always refer him to the court. Depending on the case, police will de-escalate the situation by talking to Tyrell to calm him down, submitting a referral to the court, and by taking him to detention.*

See “Rebecca’s Story” in Appendix P.

Research has identified a common set of protective factors that promote positive outcomes for youth in the face of significant adversity – the development of resilience. When these positive influences are operating effectively, they “stack the scale” with positive weight and improve resilience. These factors include:

- Supportive adult-youth relationships
- A sense of self-efficacy and perceived control

<sup>78</sup> Casey, BJ. *The Adolescent Brain*. *Dev Rev*. 2008; 28(1): 62–77.

<sup>79</sup> Insel, C, et al. *Development of Corticostriatal Connectivity Constrains Goal-Directed Behavior During Adolescence*. *Nat Comm*. 2017. 8: 1605.

- Opportunities to strengthen adaptive skills and self-regulatory capacities
- Sources of faith, hope, and cultural traditions<sup>80</sup>

The capabilities that underlie resilience can be strengthened at any age. Decades of strong evidence around the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and trauma on adults' health and wellbeing, along with emerging research around impacts on young people, point to a need to invest in the development of effective ways to build resilience of youth, thus buffering the effects of individual and community adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Schools and community organizations are key institutions influencing youth development, health, and achievement. Investing in restorative, trauma-informed practices within the school environments, and extending to other organizations where youth are served, is an emerging best practice in mitigating the effects of toxic stress in communities.

Multiple studies point to the importance of identity in positive youth development. One aspect of identity – cultural identity and, in particular, a strong identification with one's heritage – is positively associated with a range of outcomes including coping ability, mastery, self-esteem, and optimism, all aspects that support and build resilience.<sup>81</sup> Partnering effectively with cultural communities to support children, youth and families in ways that strengthen protective factors and scaffold systems of supports that are accessible, relevant and culturally-appropriate is essential to upstream prevention activities.

Research demonstrates that youth with more developmental assets, such as positive family communication, caring school climate, and sense of purpose, have reduced morbidity and better health outcomes.<sup>82</sup> In addition, key protective factors, such as connectedness to parents and family, connectedness to school, and optimism promote healthy youth behaviors and outcomes while diminishing the likelihood of negative health and social outcomes.<sup>83</sup> A dual strategy of risk reduction and promotion of protective factors through an intentional positive youth development approach holds the greatest promise as a public health strategy to improve outcomes for youth.<sup>84</sup>

This objective and its strategies provide the opportunity for the partnership between youth and families, schools and communities, and the County to enhance positive youth development and help position the youth on a healthy life course.



<sup>80</sup> Shonkoff, Jack. (2018). *Toxic Stress*. Harvard University Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University. <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/toxic-stress/>

<sup>81</sup> Roberts et al. (1999). *The Structure of Ethnic Identity of Young Adolescents from Diverse Ethnocultural Groups*. *The Journal of Early Adolescence* 19(3):301-322, August 1999.

<sup>82</sup> Pittman K. (2015) *What's health got to do with it? Health and youth development: connecting the dots*. *Forum Focus*. 2005; 3(2):1-4.

<sup>83</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health; Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Office of Adolescent Health. (2004). *Improving the Health of Adolescents & Young Adults: A Guide for States and Communities*.

<sup>84</sup> Krejpe, Richard E. (2009). *University of Rochester. Youth Development as a Public Health Policy: How to Make it Work*. May 2009 presentation.

**Strategy A: Support the development of restorative policies & practices to keep youth engaged in school**

Data shows that students who are suspended or expelled, particularly those who are repeatedly disciplined, are more likely to drop out of school than students who are not involved in the disciplinary system. The National

• Provide supports before youth get into trouble and we may be able to stop involvement

— August 8th, 2018 - Rainier Beach Community Conversation

Education Association states, “A suspension can be life altering. It is the number-one predictor—more than poverty—of whether children will drop out of school...” Compared to high school graduates, young people who drop out of school are less likely to find a job and earn a living wage, and more likely to be poor and to suffer from a variety of adverse health outcomes.<sup>85</sup> Approximately 2,000 young people in King County end up dropping out of school each year and these youth are disproportionately youth of color and low-income.<sup>86</sup>

Restorative practices emphasize repairing harm and inviting all affected to dialogue together to figure out how to do so, giving equal attention to safety, individual needs, and accountability and growth.<sup>87</sup> Restorative practices can be used to promote a positive school climate and culture, which can help to prevent behavior issues or conflicts. Though contemporary restorative practices began in just the last few decades, the effectiveness of these practices in reducing dropout rates, suspensions, and expulsions in schools is increasingly being documented. Restorative practices completely shift from harming to healing; from retributive justice to restorative justice.<sup>88</sup>

*Note: not all strategies include items in each of the four levels of County responsibility. Some strategies do not include medium or long term items.*

OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGY A	
SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESTORATIVE POLICIES & PRACTICES TO KEEP YOUTH ENGAGED IN SCHOOL	
ACTION ITEMS	
LEVEL 3 - COUNTY AS CONVENER	
<b>Short Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene school partners to improve school discipline practices to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ Revise/align suspension and expulsion policies with a focus on restorative justice</li> <li>◊ Develop shared policies, including school resource officer policies that are informed by a public health approach inclusive of trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate services and supports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Facilitate and support alternative pathways for school completion for youth who have been expelled</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and develop policies that allow children to attend school without fear of arrest on warrants or police interrogation without an attorney present</li> </ul>

<sup>85</sup> Rumberger, Russell W. *Dropping Out: Why Students Drop Out of High School and What Can Be Done About It*, 2011, Harvard University Press

<sup>86</sup> Flannery, Mary Ellen. (2015.) "The School-to-Prison Pipeline: Time to Shut It Down." *NEA Today*, 05 Jan. 2015.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>88</sup> *Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth*. <http://rjoakland.org/restorative-justice/>

**Strategy B: Provide access to high quality, community based services for communities, youth, and families**

Some of the essential elements in building resilience and promoting health and wellbeing for young people include having supportive relationships, being involved in pro-social activities outside of school, and having sources of faith, hope, and cultural traditions. The supportive, healthy relationships formed in mentoring and credible messenger programs help support youth as they go through challenging life situations, including dealing with toxic stress, trauma and transitioning to adulthood. Mentoring and other out-of-school programs help guide young people towards positive social interactions and activities. Moreover, research shows that programs that are reflective of young people’s culture, experience and community help build their sense of positive identity which in turn build a sense of self efficacy, positive decision-making and sense of belonging – critical elements in positive adolescent development.

*Aligning the community w/ mental health resources, legal aid, family counseling,*

— August 8th, 2018 - Rainier Beach Community Conversation

<p><b>OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGY B</b></p> <p><b>PROVIDE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY, COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES</b></p> <p><b>ACTION ITEMS</b></p>
<p><b>LEVEL 2 - COUNTY AS PARTNER</b></p>
<p><b>Short Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue and grow sustained investments in robust community options to serve high needs youth and families, including providing technical assistance, capacity building, and philanthropic opportunities</li> <li>• Expand ability to connect high needs youth and families with community based credible messengers</li> <li>• Expand youth access to pro social activities &amp; supports outside of school</li> <li>• Expand mentorship programs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce barriers to housing access by increasing resources, services, and support for housing</li> </ul>

**Strategy C: Support community based response to youth and families in crisis so that legal system involvement is rare and the last resort**

Behavioral health issues present challenges for many of King County’s youth. Of those King County students in 10th grade who participated in the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, results revealed that at some time in their lives, 31 percent of youth felt depressed, 61.5 percent had tried alcohol, and 14 percent did not feel safe

at school.<sup>89</sup> Research has shown that approximately 50-70 percent of youth in the juvenile legal system have a diagnosable mental health disorder and 60 percent have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. Youth with co-occurring disorders in the legal system have poorer outcomes and higher rates of recidivism.<sup>90</sup>

Community-based, culturally responsive organizations are in the prime position to be first responders and early interveners. This is particularly relevant for behavioral health providers, as recognized in the MIDD Service Improvement Plan which explicitly calls for behavioral health services to be provided as culturally responsive and culturally specific.<sup>91</sup> Earlier identification and intervention, grounded in a culturally responsive approach create better prospects for living healthy, functioning lives.

<b>OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGY C</b>	
<b>SUPPORT COMMUNITY BASED RESPONSE TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS SO THAT LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT IS RARE AND THE LAST RESORT</b>	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	
<b>LEVEL 3 - COUNTY AS CONVENER</b>	
<b>Short Term:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand culturally responsive, evidence-based and/or promising behavioral health practices for youth not currently involved in the juvenile legal system (examples may include multisystemic therapy, [MST], family functional therapy [FFT], and family intensive therapy [FIT])<sup>92</sup></li><li>• Expand/enhance Wrap Around and Children’s Crisis Outreach Response System (CCORS)</li><li>• Encourage all law enforcement agencies to utilize the new juvenile Miranda warning</li></ul>	
<b>Medium Term:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modify existing crisis intervention training for law enforcement to include specific modules on adolescent brain development and skills for addressing youth in crisis (includes behavioral health crises)</li><li>• Increase continuum of treatment service options for substance use disorder treatment, including inpatient beds, more options for out-patient treatment and day treatment programs</li><li>• Strengthen and support the behavioral health workforce to increase the availability, quality, and diversity of services for children and youth</li><li>• Expand the number of 24/7 supervised stabilization beds for youth who are engaged by law enforcement (Safe Spaces)</li><li>• Create/invest in no barrier residential units with services</li></ul>	

<sup>89</sup> Washington State Department of Health.

<sup>90</sup> Underwood, L. A., & Washington, A. (2016). *Mental Illness and Juvenile Offenders*. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 13(2), 228. <http://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph13020228>  
National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: *Co-occurring Disorders Among Youth in Juvenile Justice*. <https://www.ncmhjj.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Co-occurring-Disorders-Among-Youth-in-Juvenile-Justice-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf>  
SAMHSA: *Criminal and Juvenile Justice*. <https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice>  
National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: *Co-occurring Disorders Among Youth in Juvenile Justice*. <https://www.ncmhjj.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Co-occurring-Disorders-Among-Youth-in-Juvenile-Justice-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> MIDD Service Improvement Plan. [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/community-human-services/MIDD/documents/170804\\_MIDD\\_Implementation\\_Plan.ashx?a=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/community-human-services/MIDD/documents/170804_MIDD_Implementation_Plan.ashx?a=en)

<sup>92</sup> This action item addresses the issue that the state funds behavioral health services after a youth is already involved with the juvenile legal system and only for the duration of the involvement. Availability of therapeutic interventions prior to and after a youth’s involvement in the legal system supports youth and family in community and leads to better life course outcomes.



**Measuring Objective 2:** In order to figure out how to prevent youth from entering the legal system, it is necessary to understand why and how they first enter it. Measuring youth’s first referral or first booking and for what types of alleged crimes helps to understand touch points, and in turn focus efforts.

**Measure 1:** First referral into the juvenile legal system by race of youth, by offense level, by year.

**Methodology:** For each year, count each unique youth’s first referral within that year. Next, determine whether a youth has ever had a prior referral to the PAO. If they have not, count them as a first referral. Attach demographics and offense level at that first referral.

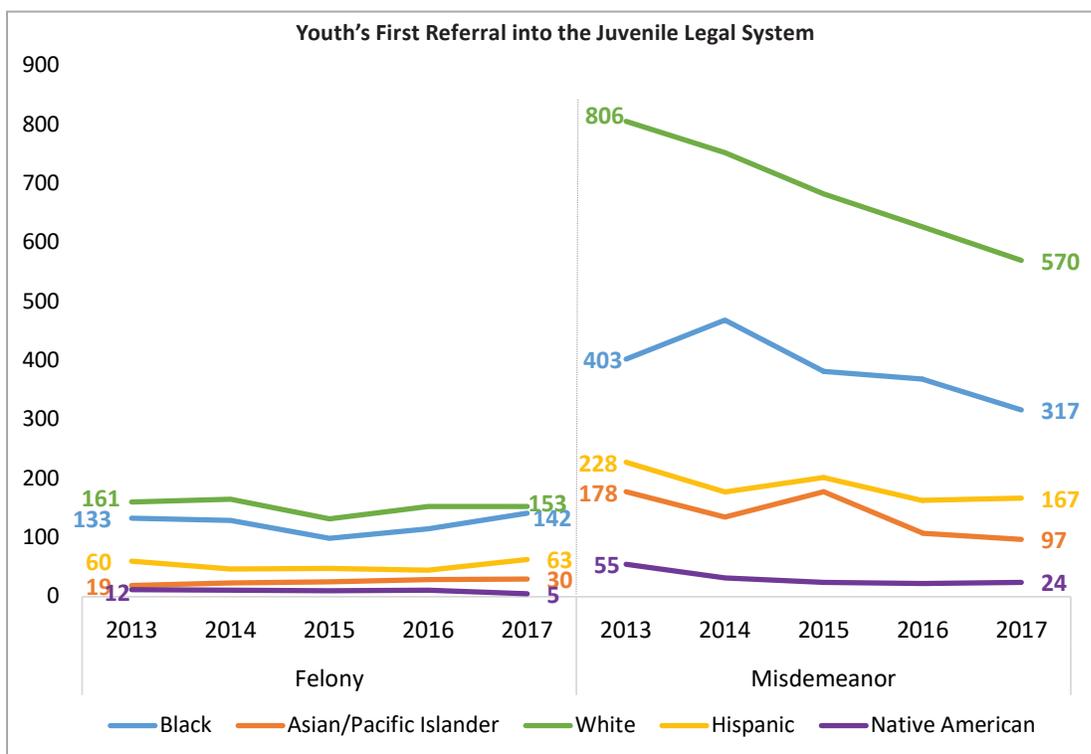
**DATA CALL OUT**

The number of **Black youth** experiencing their first referral as a felony offense has been increasing since 2015; **Hispanic youth** referrals were up between 2016 and 2017

Misdemeanor offenses, as the youth’s first referral into the legal system, is flat or decreasing across races/ethnicities

**White youth** make up 48% of all first referrals for misdemeanor offenses

Table 10



**Measure 2:** First booking into secure detention by race of youth by offense level by year.

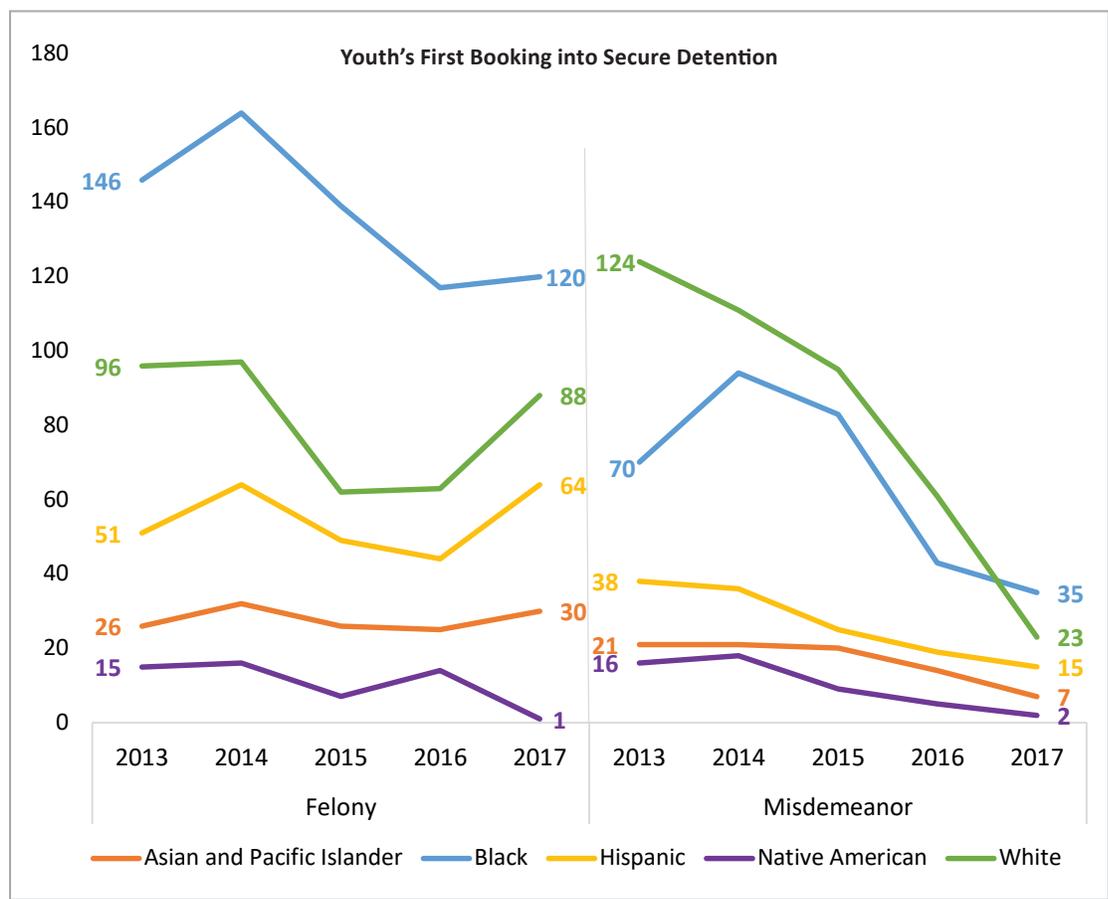
**Methodology:** For each year, count each unique youth’s first booking within that year. Next, determine whether a youth has ever had a prior secure juvenile detention. If they have not, count them as a first booking. Include demographics and offense level at that first referral.

DATA CALL OUT

Increases on first bookings for a felony all **except Native American youth** between 2016 and 2017

The number of youth being booked into secure detention for the first time on a misdemeanor offense has decreased across all races and ethnicities

Table 11



At the strategy level for this objective, the data to determine where are the greatest needs will be examined, enabling collaboration with law enforcement and school partners to close the gateways into the juvenile legal system.



## Objective Three: Divert

**DIVERT YOUTH FROM FURTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACT, FORMAL LEGAL PROCESSES, AND SECURE DETENTION INTO COMMUNITY-BASED OPTIONS.**

This objective examines alternative responses to the traditional juvenile legal and detention system to improve accountability, community safety, and outcomes for youth.

A growing body of research indicates that the traditional juvenile legal system is not as effective as community-based options for most youth who come into contact with the juvenile legal system. Particularly for lower level offenses, the traditional approach in the United States relies on a slow and adversarial legal process that often results in youth sentenced to probation with court-ordered conditions, many of which are not related to community safety or the underlying needs of the youth. According to the report *Transforming Juvenile Justice Systems*, the result for lower risk offenders is that “youth who are adjudicated by the juvenile justice system are more likely to be rearrested and less likely to succeed and complete school” than similar youth “who are not arrested or are diverted from court.”<sup>93</sup>

The traditional response by the juvenile legal and detention system can isolate youth from their family and community, increase the traumatization of youth, and as a consequence, make it more difficult to engage youth in the services and supports needed to restore them to a path to be healthy, happy, safe, and thriving. Youth with juvenile records carry a long-lasting stigma that creates more barriers to employment and housing.

### YOUNG PEOPLE

*... thrive on community. But for young people in conflict with the law, our response is too often the opposite. By incarcerating young people, we do things we know are harmful: expose them to marginalization and social isolation that can be traumatizing, make them feel (and be) unsafe, and separate them from their families and communities. This separation disproportionately affects Black and brown communities, often characterized by tight social fabric.*

—National Human Services Assembly.  
*Beyond Bars: Keeping Young People Safe at Home and out of Youth Prisons*

<sup>93</sup> Council for State Governments. (2018). *Transforming Juvenile Justice Systems to Improve Public Safety Outcomes*. Washington DC. <https://csjjusticecenter.org/youth/publications/transforming-juvenile-justice-systems-to-improve-public-safety-and-youth-outcomes/>

As noted earlier in this report, research is highlighting the potentially harmful effects on youth, families, and communities from youth being held in secure detention and calls into question using secure detention particularly if there is not an immediate and serious risk to public safety. Since youth of color are dramatically overrepresented in secure detention, the consequences of its use are borne most heavily by communities of color.



Overreliance on the traditional response of the juvenile legal and detention system does not lead to safer communities, better outcomes for youth, or more equitable systems that serve youth.<sup>94</sup> The traditional approach in the United States is not the King County approach, which this report acknowledges.

Community-based diversion options hold the promise of assuring more meaningful and immediate accountability for youth while keeping youth connected to supportive networks in their community and engaging youth and family in culturally responsive individualized services.<sup>95</sup> A community-based response aligns with what is known about positive youth development outlined in the Objective 2: Prevention. Diverting youth to community-based options “can keep the public safe, hold young people accountable and help them and their families feel a restored sense of belonging.”<sup>96</sup>

The Washington State Legislature recognized the limitations of the traditional response of the juvenile legal system when passing Senate Bill 6550 (SB) in the last legislation session. Major features of the changes in law are:

- Allows for law enforcement diversion
- Removes the cap on misdemeanor diversion (current law limits it to 2)
- Most felonies can be diverted, including Assault 2 and Robbery 2
- Encourages community-based diversion and partnerships with schools and other providers
- Recognizes restorative practices and youth development as principles important to diversion
- Clarifies when and how diversion records can be sealed/destroyed

In its recent recommendations for diversion, the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee (JJESC) supports the expanded use of community-based options through diversion. The recommendations call for King County to:

- Set a goal of diverting 100 percent of the eligible youth under SB 6550
- Invest in community-based options as a “first response” at arrest and referral
- Invest in meeting the basic needs necessary that may prevent a youth’s participation and success in diversion options

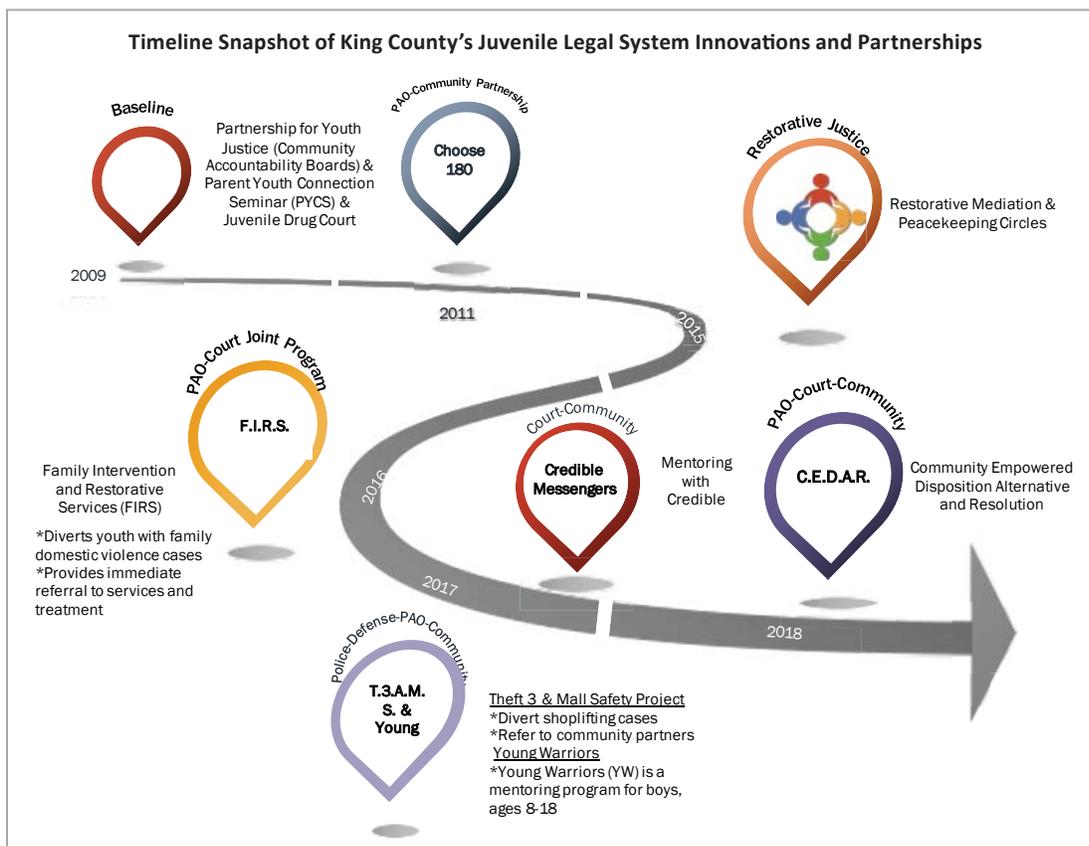
<sup>94</sup> Lambie, Ian, Randell, Isabelle. (2013). *The Impact of Incarceration on Juvenile Offenders*. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 33: 448-459. [http://www.academia.edu/29633592/The\\_impact\\_of\\_incarceration\\_on\\_juvenile\\_offenders](http://www.academia.edu/29633592/The_impact_of_incarceration_on_juvenile_offenders)

<sup>95</sup> The term “diversion” as used in this report meant to include any opportunity to redirect youth from the juvenile legal process and detention. This meaning is broader than the statutory definition.

<sup>96</sup> Lambie, Ian, Randell, Isabelle. (2013). *The Impact of Incarceration on Juvenile Offenders*. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 33: 448-459. [http://www.academia.edu/29633592/The\\_impact\\_of\\_incarceration\\_on\\_juvenile\\_offenders](http://www.academia.edu/29633592/The_impact_of_incarceration_on_juvenile_offenders)

- Engage youth in restorative practices customized to the youth’s circumstances
- Partner transparently with community stakeholders to monitor the data and results on these efforts by age, gender, and race/ethnicity<sup>97</sup>

King County is not starting from scratch in its diversion work as outlined in this objective. It has a long history of using alternatives to secure detention and implementing diversion options for youth involved with the legal system on less serious offenses. The timeline below highlights several of the innovative programs in recent years.



For this objective, the journey to Zero Youth Detention means carefully expanding the range of community-based diversion options until it becomes the primary response for most youth who come into contact with the legal system, including those youth who have the most complex needs.

The strategies and actions below represent the next step in a commitment to bring together partners to work through the challenges for creating an effective continuum of community-based approaches in King County. These challenges include:

- **Complex and Diverse Needs of Youth:** As noted in the Beyond Bars report “few [communities] are equipped to safely meet the complex and diverse needs of young people in the juvenile justice system and their families.”<sup>98</sup>
- **Building Community Capacity:** Communities have great potential to care for their youth. The challenge is to support the organization of, and fund to scale, services tailored to the needs of youth and the supports to help youth stay engaged.

<sup>97</sup> The Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee Diversion Recommendations - Appendix C

<sup>98</sup> National Human Services Assembly. (2016). Beyond Bars: Keeping Young People Safe at Home and out of Youth Prisons. <https://www.nationalassembly.org/resources/beyond-bars-keeping-young-people-safe-at-home-and-out-of-youth-prisons/>

- **Cross-System Coordination:** An effective continuum of community-based options requires partnerships with multiple youth-serving systems including behavioral and physical health, education, child welfare, and the juvenile legal system. However, if these systems are not aligned across goals, funding, and demands on families, they will be a barrier to supporting effective community-based options.
- **Measured Responses for Setbacks:** When considering the traumatization youth involved with the juvenile legal system have experienced and the adolescent stage of brain development, youth will often misstep. Recognizing this reality, it will be necessary for community and system partners to agree ahead of time on how best to respond to these setbacks.

*Multiple diversion points throughout the systems that use restorative options*

— August 8th, 2018 - Rainier Beach Community Conversation

Increasing the use of community-based decisions options occurs within the context of the juvenile legal process at the following stages:

- Contact with law enforcement
- Arrest and referral to Court
- Case diverted, filed or dismissed
- If filed, the case is adjudicated in Superior Court

The strategies and actions for this Zero Youth Detention objective are intended to generate a continuum of community-based options that could be accessed at different points in the juvenile legal process. The strategies for the objective are organized as follows:

- Law enforcement arrest and/or citation (Strategy A)
- Court process including referral, case filing, and adjudication (Strategy B)
- Secure Detention (Strategy C)

Strategies A and B are focused on expanding diversion opportunities from the formal legal system to community-based options. Strategy C is focused on expanding opportunities to safely place youth, who would otherwise be held in detention, into alternatives such as electronic home monitoring that include strong community-based support. Please note that use of diversion options, including diversion from detention, are determined by prosecutorial and judicial discretion.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>99</sup> In many instances, judicial decisions are driven by statutory requirements.

## FIVE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS NECESSARY TO MAXIMIZE DIVERSION

PROVIDED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE EQUITY STEERING COMMITTEE

1. Youth and family centered
2. Community-based & delivered in culturally meaningful ways
3. Tailored to the needs of youth
4. Youth have multiple chances at diversion
5. Addressing basic needs essential for success

## THE THEFT 3 MALL SAFETY (T3AMS) PROJECT

T3AMS IS A PILOT PROJECT DESIGNED TO LOWER THE NUMBER OF YOUTH-RELATED THEFT CHARGES AND CASES AT A LOCAL MALL

Working together, businesses, mall security, local law enforcement, and the T3AMS project partners encourage positive behavior, connecting young people who make the mistake of shoplifting, to community services. Services provided are:

- Job training
- Mentoring
- Employment assistance
- Academic support

### Strategy A: Divert youth from law enforcement arrest and/or citation

When law enforcement comes into contact with a youth potentially involved in an offense, many dynamics are in play. The opportunity presented in this strategy provides law enforcement with a range of tools, options, and new partnerships to respond to a variety of situations involving youth in crisis. For example, for minor offenses, community-based options can bring more immediate accountability while engaging the youth and their families in services that can help avoid the situation from repeating or escalating. See adjacent box below for a recent example, called Theft 3/Mall Safety Project.

*Note: not all strategies include items in each of the four levels of County responsibility. Some strategies do not include medium or long term items.*

**OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGY A**  
DIVERT YOUTH FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT ARREST AND/OR CITATION  
ACTION ITEMS

**LEVEL 3 - COUNTY AS CONVENER**

**Short Term:**

- Convene law enforcement and communities to develop and test alternative responses to formal arrest and referral for potential minor offenses that would provide more immediate accountability and access to services that support youth development in their community

### Strategy B: Divert youth from referral, case filing, and adjudication

If youth are not diverted at arrest, the case will be referred into the legal process, which starts with Prosecutor’s decision of whether to divert, file, or not proceed. As noted earlier, diversion options currently exist and the passage of SB 6550 expands what can be diverted prior to filing. The potential actions below represent the next steps to expand on existing diversion options to create a full continuum.

**OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGY B**  
DIVERT YOUTH FROM REFERRAL, CASE FILING, AND ADJUDICATION  
ACTION ITEMS

**LEVEL 2 - COUNTY AS PARTNER**

**Short Term:**

- Expand Community Empowered Disposition Alternative and Resolution (CEDAR) program<sup>100</sup>
- Enhance partnership with legal system, including law enforcement, and community stakeholders to increase diversion opportunities for youth referred for misdemeanor charges
- Partner with legal system and community stakeholders to conduct analysis of case filing or adjudication diversion options to expand opportunities for youth to avoid further involvement in the legal system

<sup>100</sup> See Appendix Q for details on the CEDAR program.

### Strategy C: Divert youth from secure detention

A major milestone on the road to Zero Youth Detention is to shift toward using secure detention as the option of last resort. This shift involves carefully expanding the use of alternatives to secure detention such as electronic home monitoring.

Most youth who are involved in the legal system are not held in secure detention. Youth who have been arrested are admitted into secure detention because a combination of their alleged offense, criminal history, and other factors that indicate they are a potential serious risk to public safety or themselves. Parents are usually consulted as well.<sup>101</sup>

A set of detention intake criteria, adopted by Superior Court, determines eligibility for acceptance to secure detention. The Court completes the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) in order to determine the risk level. The DRAI risk level informs the court in decision making with regard to release, alternative to secure detention, or secure detention for the youth. Youth who score low risk on the DRAI, and are screened after court hours, are eligible to be released immediately through the use of a remote electronic review with a Superior Court Judge.<sup>102</sup> Youth who score moderate and high on the DRAI will be seen by a judge within 24 business hours at first appearance. The Court will make a determination of custody status and eligibility for alternatives to detention (e.g. electronic home monitoring) at first appearance, arraignment, and subsequent hearings.

As noted in Table 12, King County has used alternatives to secure detention extensively over the years. Even as the overall detention population has declined, the proportion of youth on alternatives has increased. The charts also indicate that youth of color in general are placed in alternatives in the same proportion as their representation in secure detention.

<b>OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGY C</b> <b>DIVERT YOUTH FROM SECURE DETENTION</b> <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>
<b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b>
<p><b>Short Term:</b> Continue to regularly review and evaluate the detention intake criteria to stay current with Zero Youth Detention progress on diversion options and ensure detention is a last resort</p>
<b>LEVEL 2 - COUNTY AS PARTNER</b>
<p><b>Short Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expand alternatives to detention and use them as default response instead of detention</li> <li>● Partner with community providers to expand use of electronic home monitoring (EHM) for youth by                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Expanding availability of community alternatives</li> <li>◇ Continuing to review every youth who presents at detention for EHM eligibility</li> <li>◇ When possible, placing youth under 14 years old on EHM</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Partner with community organizations to increase community placement options for youth with status offenses and probation violations<sup>103</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>101</sup> In some cases, parents seek confinement of their child for safety reasons, reflecting a historical lack of resources in communities available as safe alternatives to detention for youth.

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/juvenile/detention/criteria.aspx>

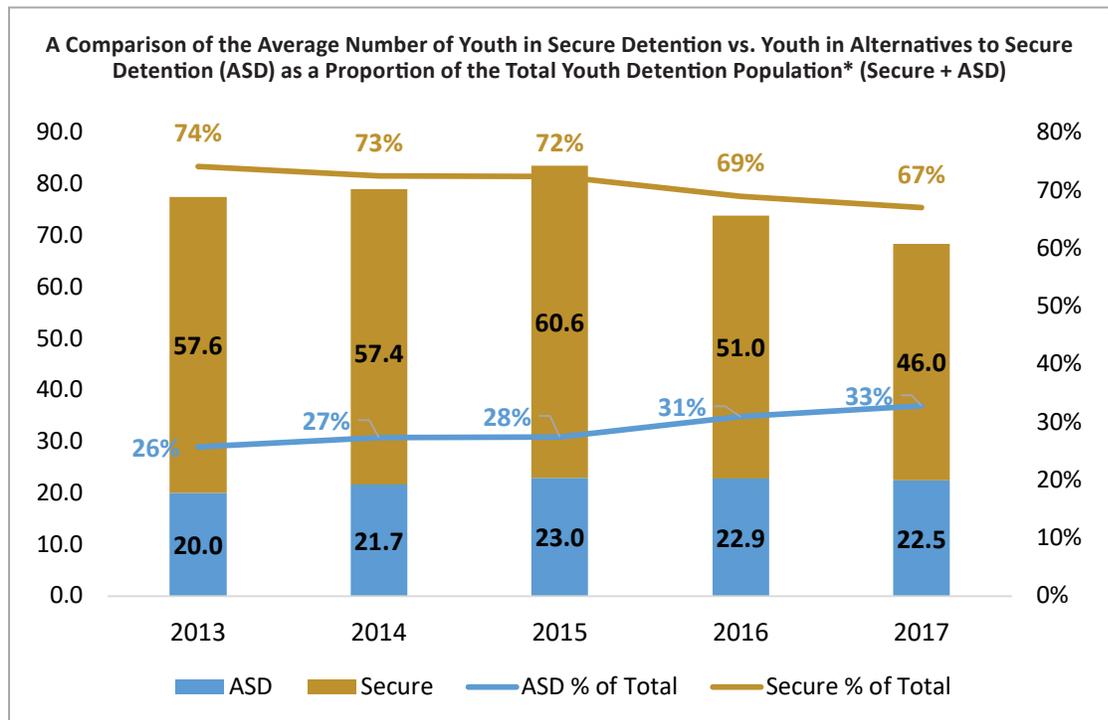
<sup>103</sup> Includes At Risk Youth (ARY), Children in Need of Services (CHINS), and Becca cases.

**Measuring Objective 3:** King County has many formal and informal diversion and restorative justice programs, policies and initiatives. Diverting youth out of the juvenile legal system, or to the least restrictive environment based on their individual needs while ensuring community safety, is usually in the best interest of youth. At the objective level, the use of electronic home monitoring (an alternative to secure detention) as a percent of secure detention numbers is measured. Data is then disaggregated by race to determine if disparities exist.

**DATA CALL OUT**

Although the average daily number of youth in **secure and alternatives to secure detention** has fallen since 2015, the percent of youth in **alternatives** has risen, relative to the total detention population\*

Table 12



\*Excludes youth held in detention on adult matters.

**Measure 1:** Comparison of the average daily population of youth in secure detention compared to youth in alternatives to secure detention (predominantly electronic home monitoring). Years 2013-2017 shown.

**Methodology:** For each year, look at the total average daily population of youth in custody and compare secure detention number to alternatives to secure detention. Determine the percent of each by year.

**Percent of Youth in Alternatives to Secure Detention (ASD) Compared to Percent of Youth in Secure Detention, by Race – 2013 vs. 2017\***

Table 13

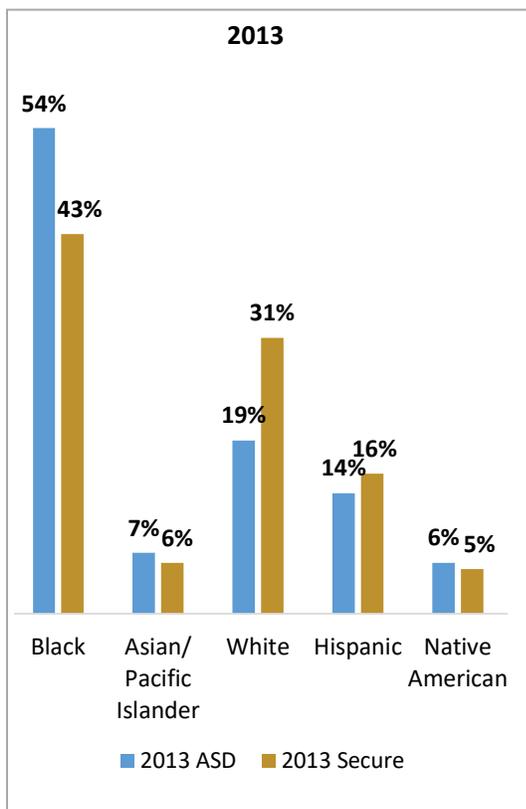
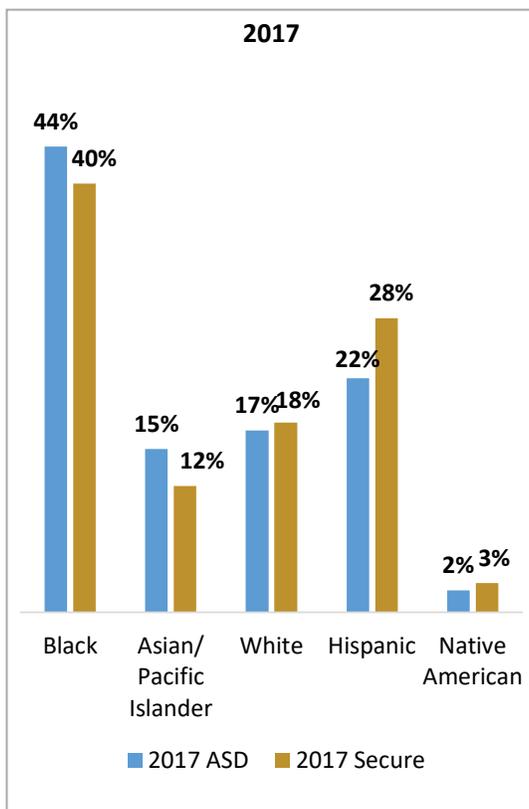


Table 14



\*Excludes youth held in detention on adult matters.

**Measure 2:** Comparison of the percent of youth in alternatives to secure detention compared to the percent of youth in secure detention for the years 2013 and 2017, by race.

**Methodology:** For each year, look at the average daily population of youth in both secure custody and alternatives to secure custody. Determine the percent breakdown of each type of custody by race.

**DATA CALL OUT**

One indicator for the use of alternatives to secure detention (ASD) is whether youth of color are represented in ASD at the **same percentage they are represented** in secure detention

In 2013 and 2017, youth of color were **represented in ASD** in the same percentage or greater compared to their representation in secure detention, except for Hispanic youth



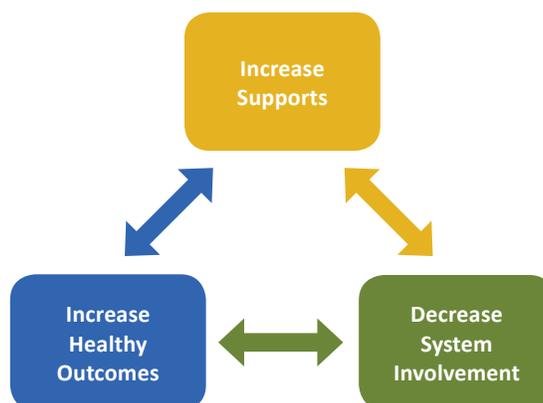
## Objective Four: Support

**SUPPORT YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO REDUCE RECURRENCE OF LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT AND INCREASE HEALTHY OUTCOMES.**

This objective seeks to create and support interactions for youth and families that are transformative and recognize the restorative capacity of youth, resulting in reduced legal system involvement and improved life-course outcomes. Informed by the evolving understanding of adolescent brain development, principles of equity and social justice, and by communities and King County employees, the following strategies work together to support youth and their family in their communities so that they live their full potential; youth do not return to the legal system; negative impacts to their lives are minimized; and their inherent strengths and skills are promoted.

Feedback from youth and families involved with the legal system, community members, and employees indicates the need for additional supports for family members while navigating the complexities of the juvenile legal system.<sup>104</sup> Offering such support programs and resources that include previously juvenile legal system involved family members provide peer support that can help build trust, establish safety, and empower families.<sup>105</sup>

Additionally, engaging families in crucial decision points about a youth's education, treatment, and progress throughout legal system involvement opens a door to connections to services and resources the family may need in the community. These services can help support youth and families beyond the walls of secure detention and juvenile legal system involvement.<sup>106</sup>



<sup>104</sup> The term "families" includes those people, defined by the youth and family, who are primary attachment relationships and provide essential care for the well-being of each other such as love, resources, supports, and guardianship.

<sup>105</sup> Rozzell, Liane. (2013). *The Role of Family Engagement in Creating Trauma-Informed Juvenile Justice Systems*. Los Angeles, Calif.: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

<sup>106</sup> Shanahan, Ryan, and DiZerega, Margaret DiZerega. (2016). *Identifying, Engaging, and Empowering Families: A Charge for Juvenile Justice Agencies*. Report. Georgetown University, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Vera Project. <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Family-Engagement-Paper-2016.pdf>

Such services may include substance abuse or behavioral health treatment, housing resources, employment or education services, mentorship programs, or other necessary services. Youth can feel relief knowing their family’s needs are being met while also serving as a source of motivation when family members have resources to meet their needs in preparation for the return home of their child.<sup>107</sup>

**Strategy A: Expand family support and engagement opportunities and connections**

Young people who remain in their own community generally have better outcomes after contact with the juvenile legal system. However, when community-based resources are not a viable option and a youth must be placed in secure detention as a last resort, family engagement and support are essential.<sup>108</sup> Evidence suggests that youth in secure detention who get frequent visits from family members do better in school and have fewer violent incidents while in detention.<sup>109</sup>

*Note: not all strategies include items in each of the four levels of County responsibility. Some strategies do not include medium or long term items.*

OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGY A	
EXPAND FAMILY SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CONNECTIONS	
ACTION ITEMS	
<b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b>	
<b>Short Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to expand visitation access to youth in detention</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and develop and implement options to assist families in attending scheduled hearings, including potential revisions of Court hours, to include weekend and evening hours and video opportunities for remote appearances to prevent youth and families from missing school or work in partnership with labor</li> <li>• Provide printed, culturally responsive materials for families involved with the juvenile legal system regarding services and processes</li> </ul>
<b>LEVEL 2 - PARTNER</b>	
<b>Short Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement family outreach and engagement activities upon arrival and release from detention</li> <li>• Increase supports for caregivers and families with youth on electronic home monitoring</li> <li>• Establish and implement parent support program for parents and caregivers of juveniles who are engaged in criminal and non-criminal court matters</li> </ul>

<sup>107</sup> Shanahan, Ryan, and; DiZerega, Margaret DiZerega. (2016). *Identifying, Engaging, and Empowering Families: A Charge for Juvenile Justice Agencies*. Report. Georgetown University, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Vera Project. <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Family-Engagement-Paper-2016.pdf>

<sup>108</sup> Shanahan, Ryan; DiZerega, Margaret. (2016). *Identifying, Engaging, and Empowering Families: A Charge for Juvenile Justice Agencies*. Report. Georgetown University, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Vera Project. <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Family-Engagement-Paper-2016.pdf>

<sup>109</sup> Villalobos Agudelo, Sandra. (2013). *The Impact of Family Visitation on Incarcerated Youth’s Behavior and School Performance Findings from the Families as Partners Project*. Report. The Vera Project Issue Brief. [http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/impact-of-family-visitation-on-incarcerated-youth-brief\\_VERA\\_April-2013.pdf](http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/impact-of-family-visitation-on-incarcerated-youth-brief_VERA_April-2013.pdf)

**Strategy B: Reengage youth from detention into community**

Effective plans must be in place to support youth as they exit confinement and reintegrate back into their family, school, job, and community. Reentry services and programs which target youth who are exiting detention and connect them with professional cases managers, mentors, or employment opportunities can reduce recidivism. By fostering improved family relationships and functioning, reintegration into school, and mastery of independent life skills, youth build resiliency and positive development to divert them from delinquent and other problematic behaviors.<sup>110</sup>

Ensuring reengagement services, programs, and resources help meet the needs of youth within their family and community context supports community safety and stability, promotes youth and family wellbeing and positive youth development so that youth can thrive well beyond juvenile legal system involvement. Access to effective reengagement for youth reentering community from secure detention can help to reduce recidivism and foster successful reconnections with families and communities.

*I have spent the past two years showing up to his school, court related appointments, and calling law enforcement in hopes of getting help. I want people to know that this experience is extremely difficult. I am sure other parents are experiencing even worse things than my family. I wonder if other parents have given up seeking services or if they simply do not care. I want something that works and to know that the law is on the side of families.*

See “Angel’s Story” in Appendix P

OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGY B
REENGAGE YOUTH FROM DETENTION INTO COMMUNITY
ACTION ITEMS
<b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b>
<p><b>Medium Term:</b> Eliminate legal financial obligations (LFOs) except as pertaining to crime survivors<sup>111</sup></p>

<sup>110</sup> Nellis, A.; Wayman, R. (2009). *Back on Track: Supporting Youth Reentry from Out-of- Home Placement to the Community*. Youth Reentry Task Force of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition. <https://jjie.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Back-on-Track-Supporting-Youth-Reentry-from-Out-of-Home-Placement-to-the-Community.pdf>

<sup>111</sup> Whenever a person is convicted in Superior Court, the court may order the payment of a legal financial obligation as part of sentencing. Revised Code of Washington 9.94A.760

## LEVEL 2 - COUNTY AS PARTNER

### Short Term:

- Implement warm hand off to community providers for each youth exiting detention (housing, education, employment, physical health and behavioral health)<sup>112</sup>
- Link exiting youth and families with community ambassadors, credible messengers, community navigators and mentors, providers and community members
- Increase mentorship opportunities
- Expand academic/educational achievement and work readiness programs for youth in detention and youth on probation
- Implement “Know your Rights” training for youth and families
- Implement record sealing clinics

### Medium Term:

- Explore and pilot probation models that incorporate the principles of adolescent development and incentive-based behavior management such as an opportunity-based probation model<sup>113</sup>

### Long Term:

- Establish housing options for youth transitioning out of detention or the legal system, such as community embedded housing, where 24/7 adolescent trauma focused respite, long term care, and crisis intervention services are provided in non-secure units to youth age 12-17

### Strategy C: Ensure detained youth receive trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate care and services

Foundational to a public health approach in juvenile detention is a focus on workforce development, including training detention staff on science based adolescent brain development and providing trauma-informed services. The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention’s annual training plan includes training on trauma, adolescent development, crisis intervention, and de-escalation. Juvenile detention staff are receiving enhanced training on understanding the roots of adolescent behavior based on brain science and evolving principles of adolescent development and understanding the adolescent brain. Detention staff who work with youth are being trained in restorative mediation to better assist youth in problem-solving. Trainings on interpersonal communication and direct supervision are also being provided so that staff can expand and strengthen interpersonal skills which are fundamental to building rapport with youth.

Feedback from community members and King County employees identify a shared view that trauma-informed, culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate care and services are necessary to help youth reach their full potential. As identified in Objective 2, multiple studies point to the importance of identity in positive youth development. A strong identification with one’s heritage is positively associated with a range of positive life-course outcomes.<sup>114</sup>

<sup>112</sup> A facilitated transition of a client when moving from one program or service to another.

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.aecf.org/m/privy/Deep-End-Resource-Guide-8n-Opportunity-Based-Probation-Manual.pdf>

<sup>114</sup> Roberts et.al. (1999). The Structure of Ethnic Identity of Young Adolescents from Diverse Ethnocultural Groups. *The Journal of Early Adolescence* 19(3):301-322, August 1999.

*I believe that Tyrell would benefit from an inpatient, dual-diagnoses program with mental health support such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. I would also like him to have a mentor with a similar lived experience. A sponsor from a substance abuse program could be helpful.*

See “Rebecca’s Story” in Appendix P.

Skills building programming made available to youth who are in detention can provide a positive foundation for youth reengagement with family and community, particularly if the programming is culturally responsive and reflective. Recent studies found that youth of color are most successful when they are taught and led by people who look like them and have shared lived experiences.<sup>115, 116, 117</sup>

<b>OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGY C</b> <b>ENSURE DETAINED YOUTH RECEIVE TRAUMA-INFORMED, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE, AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE CARE AND SERVICES</b> <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>
<b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b>
<p><b>Short Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide professional development training on trauma-informed care, adolescent brain development, implicit bias, undoing systemic racism, and other best practices to all county staff serving youth</li> </ul>
<b>LEVEL 2 - PARTNER</b>
<p><b>Short Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide responsive programming to detained youth: workshops, healing circles, asset development, cultural history, life and leadership skills</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and make available training on trauma-informed care, adolescent brain development and other best practices to community based organizations serving youth</li> <li>• Provide specialized alternative to secure detention beds with a full continuum of therapeutic behavioral health supports for youth who present substance abuse, mental health or other behavioral health needs</li> </ul>

<sup>115</sup> Ordway, Denise-Marie. (2017). “Minority Teachers: How Students Benefit from Having Teachers of Same Race.” Harvard University Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy. <https://journalistsresource.org/studies/society/education/minority-teachers-students-same-race-research>

<sup>116</sup> Gershenson et al. (2017). *The Long-Run Impacts of Same-Race Teachers*. IZA Institute for Labor Economics. <http://ftp.iza.org/dp10630.pdf>

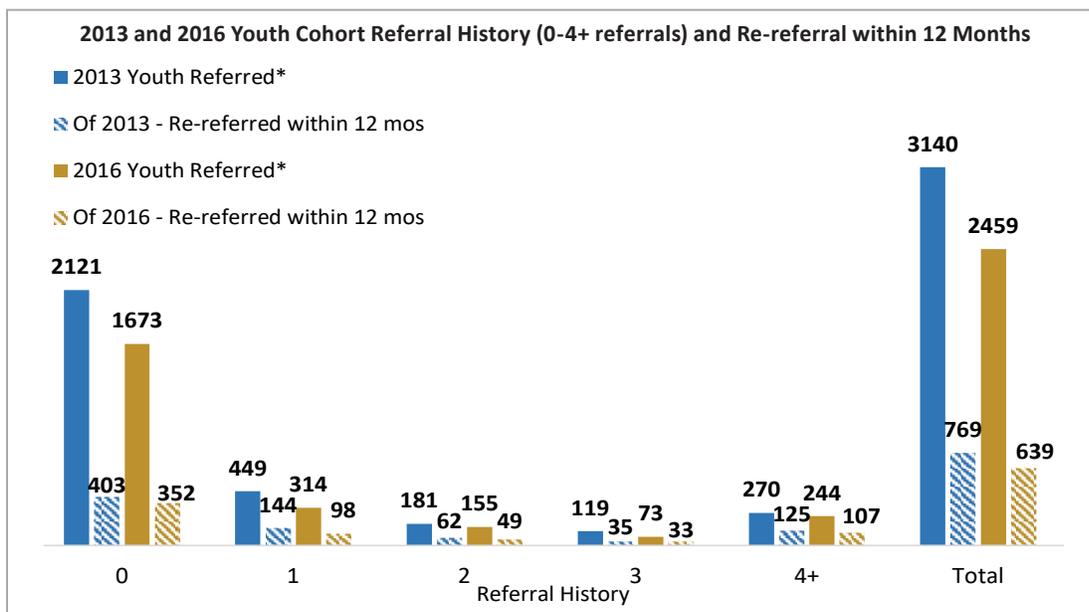
<sup>117</sup> Robinson, Marc Anthony. (2018). *Black Boys Don’t Need More Discipline, They Need Mentors*. Education Post. <http://educationpost.org/black-boys-dont-need-more-discipline-they-need-mentors/>

**Measuring Objective 4:** To measure recurrence of involvement in the legal system for youth, it is necessary to first understand the starting point. To do this, a cohort of youth coming into the system at the same time is examined. Because there is intentional focus on youth coming into the system, referrals and bookings are tracked, and in particular how many times youth have previously been in the system, and how many have come back. These baseline numbers will provide a point in time against which to track impact and outcomes across the detention system.

**Measure 1:** Showing 2013 and 2016 data: percent and number of youth with zero, one, two, three, or four and more prior referrals and percent and number of youth with zero, one, two, three, or four and more prior referrals that have a new referral within twelve months following the 2013 and 2016 referral.

**Methodology:** For both years, count each unique youth’s first referral within that year. Next, count each unique youth’s number of prior referrals to the PAO. Include demographics and offense level for future analysis. Finally, count the first referral within twelve months following the initial referral date in 2013 and 2016. Remove any youth older than 16.99 years from the analysis as it will not be possible to follow these youth for the full 12 months at this time.

Table 15



\*Excludes youth that were 17 years old or older at the time of the referral in 2013 or 2016.

COHORT	PRIOR REFERRALS					
	0	1	2	3	4+	TOTAL
% of 2013 youth re-referred within 12 months	19.0%	32.1%	34.3%	29.4%	46.3%	24.5%
% of 2016 youth re-referred within 12 months	21.0%	31.2%	31.6%	45.2%	43.9%	26.0%

**Measure 2:** Showing 2013 and 2016 data: percent and number of youth with zero, one, two, three, or four and more prior bookings and percent and number of youth with zero, one, two, three, or four and more prior bookings with a new booking within six months following the 2013 and 2016 booking.

**Methodology:** For both years, count each unique youth’s first booking into secure detention within that year. Next, count each unique youth’s number of prior bookings into secure detention. Finally, count the first booking within six months following the initial booking in 2013 and 2016. The start date will commence on the youth’s release date. Remove any youth older than 17.49 years at release date from the analysis as it will not be possible to follow these youth for the full six months at this time.

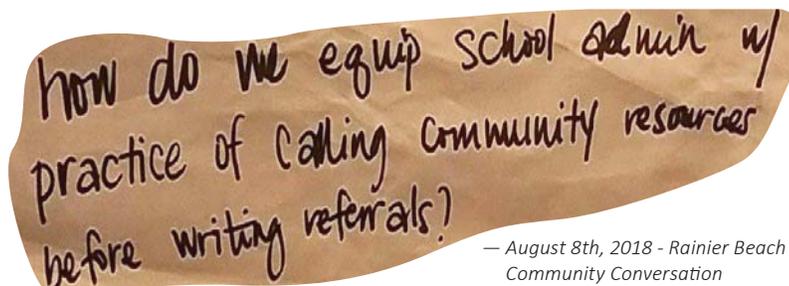
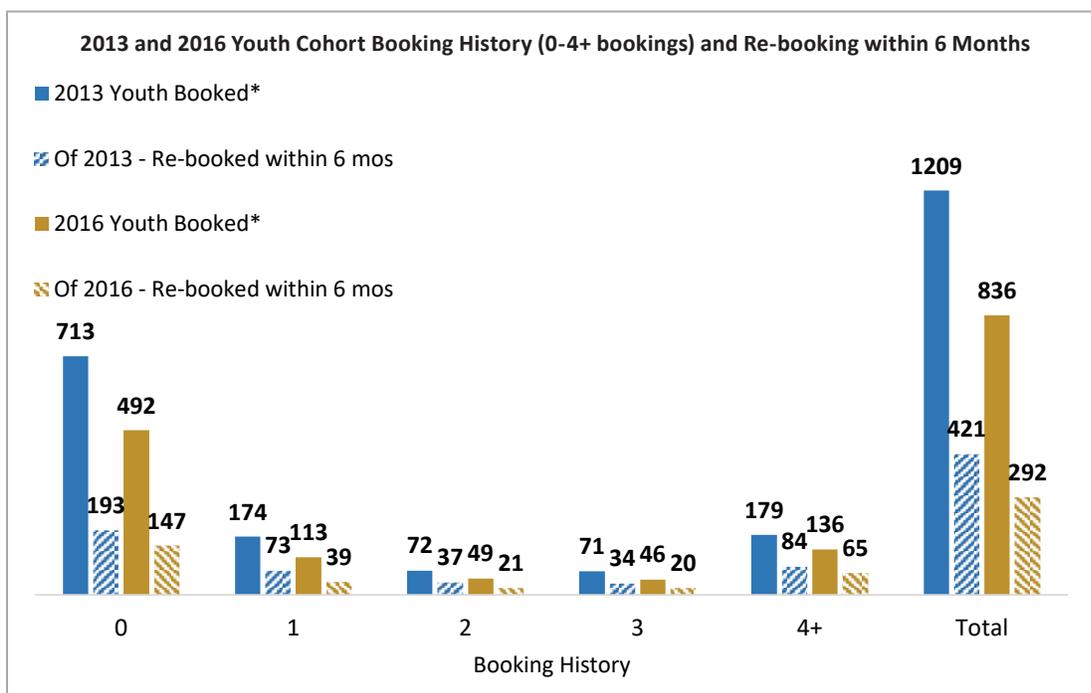


Table 16



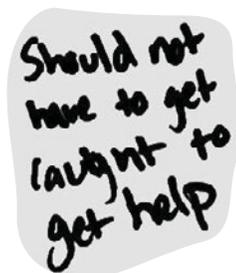
\*Excludes youth that were 17.5 years old or older at the time of release from the original 2013 and 2016 booking.

COHORT	PRIOR BOOKINGS					
	0	1	2	3	4+	TOTAL
% of 2013 youth re-booked within 12 months	27.1%	42.0%	51.4%	47.9%	46.9%	34.8%
% of 2016 youth re-booked within 12 months	29.9%	34.5%	42.9%	43.5%	47.8%	34.9%

The following two measures are under development. They will require significant data sharing agreements with 19 King County school districts, though a pilot may be initiated with one or two districts in the second half of 2018.

**Measure 3:** High school graduation rate of system involved youth compared to High School graduation rate of King County youth, by race.

**Measure 4:** School re-engagement rate of justice involved youth who are disengaged from school and exiting detention.



— August 8th, 2018  
- Rainier Beach Community Conversation

**DATA CALL OUT**

---

**Fewer youth were booked in 2016 than were in 2013**, regardless of booking history

The number of youth rebooked within 6 months **decreased** across all groups, although the percentages **increased** for youth with no booking history and those with 4 or more prior bookings



## Objective Five: Align

**ALIGN AND OPTIMIZE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, SCHOOLS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS.**

When systems work together, the people they serve benefit. This objective recognizes that youth and families are often involved in multiple systems and more can be done between and among systems to better coordinate. As noted under objective 3, cross system coordination and alignment is vitally important; when these systems are not aligned, they are barriers to success for youth and families.

While “alignment” can be seen as a process issue, very real consequences exist for youth and families in the juvenile legal system when systems are not aligned. Duplicative efforts in some areas with yawning gaps in other areas, along with overwhelming multiple requirements for youth, families, and providers, make success even harder to achieve. Systems that do not communicate (or do not communicate effectively) with each other; inability (or resistance) to share data; and deep underfunding are among the significant barriers on the path to Zero Youth Detention.

Some of the action items outlined in the strategies below reflect other County policy recommendations or endeavors. For instance, the Executive recently recommended to the Council via a report in response to Ordinance 18636 that executive departments and separately elected entities serving youth and families jointly develop mutually agreed upon outcomes. This recommendation reflects similar advice presented to the Council in the Youth Action Plan.

The Children and Youth Advisory Board recommendations specifically address system alignment, stating:

### **CYAB RECOMMENDATION 10**

The CYAB urges the creation of systems that align the knowledge, purpose and goals of the disparate King County programs and personnel that influence youth. This requires collaborative alignment between educational professionals, community-based groups, police, prosecutors, judges, “detention” staff, family support systems and others. We recognize the different accountabilities built into each of these quarters, but we feel strongly that any solutions that don’t include strategies to build strong alignment and shared goals among these influencers will fall short of success. (See Appendix O)

Fortunately, a multi system table already exists that can serve as the forum for undertaking many action items contained within this Road Map. Uniting for Youth is a collaboration table where state and local agencies and organizations have come together to examine and improve integrated program development, policy development, and service delivery for children, youth, and families served by the child welfare and juvenile legal systems.<sup>118</sup>

Though recently underutilized due to organizational and personnel changes among many of the member organizations, the Uniting for Youth table, along with the Children and Youth Advisory Board, is well positioned to provide the collaboration, leadership, and expertise to tackle much of systems work called for under this objective.

**Strategy A: Align systems through common goals, outcomes and indicators**

This strategy echoes recommendations in the Youth Action Plan, Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee, and the Children and Youth Advisory Board.<sup>119, 120, 121</sup> It is foundational for achieving improved outcomes for King County’s children, youth, and families across King County’s health, human services, and justice systems, including reduced use of secure detention for youth.

While there has been significant progress on identifying, monitoring, and reporting on outcomes for children, youth, and families particularly through the County’s Best Starts for Kids initiative, developing shared outcomes across all of King County’s services for children, youth, and families has not yet occurred. This strategy links to strategy B, via development of shared data and metrics for joint reporting, which in turn supports accountability and transparency to communities and policymakers.

*Note: not all strategies include items in each of the four levels of County responsibility. Some strategies do not include medium or long term items.*

OBJECTIVE 5 STRATEGY A	
ALIGN SYSTEMS THROUGH COMMON GOALS, OUTCOMES, AND INDICATORS	
ACTION ITEMS	
<b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b>	
<b>Short Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jointly develop mutually agreed upon legal system related outcomes for children and youth across King County government executive departments and separately elected entities</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed restorative justice principles and practices throughout and across King County services and programs</li> </ul>

<sup>118</sup> See Appendix Q for a list of Uniting for Youth Member organizations as of June 2018.

<sup>119</sup> Youth Action Plan. [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King\\_County\\_Youth\\_Action\\_Plan.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/Council/documents/Issues/YAP/King_County_Youth_Action_Plan.ashx?la=en)

<sup>120</sup> Recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee are attached as Appendix A.

<sup>121</sup> Recommendations from the Children and Youth Advisory Board are attached as Appendix O.

## LEVEL 2 - COUNTY AS PARTNER

### Short Term:

- Integrate child welfare and dependency outcomes into juvenile legal strategies and programming
- Expand use of Children and Youth Advisory Board to advise county leaders in the development and implementation of legal and child welfare policies and outcomes related to children, families, and youth

### Medium Term:

- Establish and maintain information partnerships with law enforcement so that officers know what services exist for youth and connect youth to services

## LEVEL 3 - COUNTY AS CONVENER

### Short Term:

- Renew/reform Uniting for Youth collective action table to actively collaborate on, monitor, and address outcomes
- Add labor representatives to the United for Youth table

### Medium Term:

- Study and develop a pilot project to evolve dependency system from adversarial to collaborative

What motivates us to align systems?

— August 7th, 2018 - Burien Community Conversation

### **Strategy B: Utilize data and technology to optimize connections between legal, community, and services systems**

Data continues to be a critically important tool in demonstrating progress and challenges toward meeting public policy goals of the juvenile legal system. There is a significant need to expand and maximize data capacity and coordination in and around the juvenile legal system. The Zero Youth Detention Interbranch Team determined that a consistent and reliable data infrastructure across executive departments and separately elected entities that can accommodate juvenile legal, health, and human services metrics and needs would provide transparency that communities and policymakers require. Such an infrastructure can generate baseline data and provide the capacity to assess current states, needs, and gaps in services, improving coordination of services and aligning investments. In addition, the Children and Youth Advisory Board recommendations call for “measurement and assay efforts that help link foundational components of our society to the issues of youth in crisis.”<sup>122</sup>

---

<sup>122</sup> Recommendations from the Children and Youth Advisory Board are attached as Appendix O.

<b>OBJECTIVE 5 STRATEGY B</b>	
<b>UTILIZE DATA AND TECHNOLOGY TO OPTIMIZE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, COMMUNITY, AND SERVICES SYSTEMS</b>	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	
<b>LEVEL 1 - COUNTY ONLY</b>	
<b>Short Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disaggregate data on youth such as by precinct, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, intellectual or developmental disability, and school district and use data to improve practices and outcomes</li><li>• Support, enhance, and expand data sharing between and among King County departments and agencies and community to promote and improve transparency while protecting privacy</li></ul>
<b>LEVEL 2 - PARTNER</b>	
<b>Short Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop data and evaluation capacity to assess current state needs, gaps, and inform services coordination and alignment</li></ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement a technology solution to provide real time program &amp; services availability, eligibility, and referrals</li></ul>

Consistent evaluation of programs to ensure effectiveness or original intent

— August 7th, 2018 - Burién Community Conversation

**Strategy C: Support policy reform that improves the lives of youth, children, and families and reduces legal system involvement**

King County has participated in various successful juvenile legal system reform advocacy activities with the Washington State Legislature. This work remains vital in achieving better outcomes for youth and families in King County and across the state. For example, continued policy reform is required in order to expand youth to access evidence based and/or promising practices behavioral health services before coming into contact with the juvenile legal system (SB 6550); to eliminate the use of secure detention for status offenders (SB 5596); and, add alternatives for secure confinement for status offenders (SB 6467).<sup>123,124</sup> These are a snapshot of examples of what can be done at the state level in partnership with policymakers.

<sup>123</sup> Tiano, Sara. (2018). *More Second Chances for Washington Youth with New Juvenile Justice Diversion Law*. *The Chronicles of Social Change*. <https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/stateline/more-second-chances-for-washington-youth-with-new-juvenile-justice-diversion-law>

<sup>124</sup> Abramo, Allegra. (2018). *Washington Weighs an End to Locking Kids Up for Truancy*. *The Chronicles of Social Change*. <https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news-2/washington-weighs-an-end-to-locking-kids-up-for-truancy>

In Strategy E, utilizing data more specific, tailored to communities in SKC. - use it as a flashlight, not a weapon!

— August 7th, 2018 - Burien Community Conversation

Additionally, school policing in Washington remains unregulated and there are no state laws or policies that specifically address the role of law enforcement in schools.<sup>125</sup> Further, there is no state agency tasked with systematically tracking police placement, program structure, or the impact on students.<sup>126</sup> Lack of regulation and data regarding law enforcement in schools may contribute to alienating students from their school communities thus playing a direct role in the school-to-prison pipeline.<sup>127</sup>

OBJECTIVE 5 STRATEGY C	
SUPPORT POLICY REFORM THAT IMPROVES THE LIVES OF YOUTH, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES AND REDUCES LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT	
ACTION ITEMS	
<b>LEVEL 4-INFLUENCER</b>	
<b>Short Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support state policy reform that ends the current practice of seeking dependency run warrants</li> <li>• Support state juvenile legal system reform informed by adolescent development</li> <li>• Support state legislation that provides state funding for youth to access evidence-based and/or promising practices behavioral health services before coming into contact with the juvenile legal system, including adding inpatient behavioral health treatment beds</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore seeking the establishment of state guidelines for school resource officers based on a public health approach</li> </ul>

**Measuring Objective 5:** Metrics for measuring impact of Objective 5 will be developed and incorporated in the next phase of Zero Youth Detention work.

<sup>125</sup> ACLU of Washington State. (2018). *Students Not Suspects: The Need to Reform School Policing in Washington State*. [www.aclu-wa.org/docs/students-not-suspects-need-reform-school-policing-washington-state](http://www.aclu-wa.org/docs/students-not-suspects-need-reform-school-policing-washington-state)

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*

## Community and Employee Engagement and Feedback

The County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan and the Zero Youth Detention Guiding Principles call for authentic partnership, and collaboration within and among those most impacted by the juvenile legal system: youth and their families.<sup>128</sup> Additionally, King County deeply values the experience, perspective, and commitment of its workforce and labor partners in continuing this groundbreaking work of Zero Youth Detention.

With these values in mind, three levels of engagement occurred to inform this phase of development of this Road Map seeking a variety of perspectives:

1. Community engagement
2. Employee engagement
3. Case examples from legal system involved youth and families engagement

The format of engagement included community meetings and focus groups, digital surveys, and informational interviews.

A wide array of perspectives were sought from across the county, with particular emphasis on those most impacted by the juvenile legal system. In addition to the above, outreach to the Children and Youth Advisory Board and the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee as well as informal meetings with individual stakeholders occurred throughout the Road Map planning phase.

**Community meetings.** Three community meetings took place in an effort to engage the voices of the most impacted:

- Community led and King County staff led focus groups and community conversations in Federal Way, Burien, and Rainier Beach (182 attendees, approximately 40 percent youth participation; approximately 85-90 percent people of color).
- Community groups in Rainier Beach and Burien were facilitated and organized by Sean Goode and Dominique Davis from Choose 180 and Community Passageways, community organizations that serve youth and families involved in the juvenile legal system. The Federal Way focus group was facilitated by King County staff. Youth

### SURVEY COMMENTS

*"Thank you for offering these alternatives. I think they are good ideas. I also believe that there will still be times where detention is necessary for both the public safety and for the safety of the person who is detained. I hope we can make those situations less frequent, and that detentions will be short or temporary. We still need to have a safe place for those times when detention is necessary. The current facility is not safe or adequate. So please make sure there is a safe place for youth detention when necessary, even while we work to make it less necessary."*

*"I strongly believe that keeping youth out of detention is best for them and their future. There has to be many other things we can do to help them."*

*"Disproportionate racial outcomes are happening because of larger systemic issues."*

*"Troubled youth need access to mental health counselors or mentors."*

*"This has nothing to do with skin color, period. Inserting skin color into the equation IS racism..."*

*"More recognition of family systems, support to families of troubled youth..."*

<sup>128</sup> King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2022.  
<https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/strategic-plan.aspx>

participants received visa gift cards for participation. These meetings were 2 hours in duration and included time for participants to eat since dinner was provided.

- Participants were comprised of youth and adult community members. Participants led group discussions, provided feedback on each objective and strategy item presented, and recorded their group notes. These notes were collected, consolidated and put into electronic form by King County staff, as shown in Appendix S.

**Employee focus groups.** Eight employee focus groups were held, with 79 employees participating from the following departments and entities:

- Juvenile Detention
- Department of Community and Human Services
- Prosecutor's Office
- Department of Public Defense
- Superior Court

A focus group was also held with Superior Court judges.

Employee focus group meetings were facilitated by King County employees from the Zero Youth Detention initiative. During meetings, staff took notes as participants shared their feedback. These notes were put into electronic form, as detailed in Appendix T.

**Digital surveys.** Two digital surveys were employed: one open to King County residents that collected 2,132 responses and one to King County employees whose work touches the juvenile legal system collected 142 responses. The public survey was promoted in social media, such as NextDoor and Facebook, targeting geographic areas from which many of juvenile detention referrals originate. The public survey was administered in English and Spanish.

All survey respondents were presented with the draft Road Map objectives and strategies. From the initial recommendations made from the source documents from the community, about 200 potential actionable items were considered. Due to volume and time constraints, the information shared during engagement was condensed and simplified for feasible consumption. The purpose of engaging these groups was as a "gut check" to see if the work was on the right track and to identify any gaps by asking "what's missing?" and to gather insights from participants to inform current and future Zero Youth Detention work. Please note that Objective 5 was not initially included in the survey; it was previously merged with an earlier version of Objective 4.

<b>General Public Survey Summary 2,121 Responses - English</b>	<b>AGREE/ STRONGLY AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE/ STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
<i>I believe Objective 1 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	48.9%	40.3%	10.8%
<i>I believe Objective 2 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	59.2%	31.3%	9.5%
<i>I believe Objective 3 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	44.2%	43.8%	12.0%
<i>I believe Objective 4 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	61.1%	26.5%	12.4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,093 people responded to “what’s missing”</li> </ul> <p><i>*Note: not all respondents answered each question</i></p>			

<b>General Public Survey Summary 11 Responses - Spanish</b>	<b>AGREE/ STRONGLY AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE/ STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
<i>I believe Objective 1 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	72.8%	27.3%	0%
<i>I believe Objective 2 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	72.8%	27.3%	0%
<i>I believe Objective 3 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	63.7%	27.3%	9%
<i>I believe Objective 4 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	80%	20%	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 person responded to “what’s missing”</li> </ul> <p><i>*Note: not all respondents answered each question</i></p>			

See Appendix U for general public survey comments in Spanish and English.

See Appendix V general public survey response summary, including demographics.

<b>Employee Survey Summary</b> <b>142 Responses through</b> <b>August 31, 2018</b>	<b>AGREE/ STRONGLY AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE/ STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
<i>I believe Objective 1 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	63.8%	19.1%	17.0%
<i>I believe Objective 2 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	70.3%	17.4%	12.3%
<i>I believe Objective 3 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	61.2%	23%	15.8%
<i>I believe Objective 4 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention</i>	76.3%	11.5%	12.2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83 people responded to “what’s missing”</li> </ul> <p><i>*Note: not all respondents answered each question</i></p>			

See Appendix W for employee survey comments.

See Appendix X for employee survey responses summaries, including demographics.

**Case Examples from legal system involved youth and families.** King County employees who work with youth and families in the legal system are informed by the countless stories they hear on a daily basis from the people going through the legal system. To inform the Road Map, real life examples were gathered from the Department of Public Defense and Superior Court employees. Approximately 19 parents and guardians and 12 youth (which included siblings) participated in sharing their stories. When interviewed, participants were asked to share their general story versus to give feedback on the Road Map objectives and strategies because, at the time, objectives and strategies had not yet been fully developed. Please see Appendix P for case examples.

**How the feedback was used.** The feedback received from these various sources was used to refine concepts, reinforce ideas, or expand or modify approaches outlined in the Road Map. The feedback was analyzed for themes and compared with the materials that had been developed to ensure that the Road Map was reflective of the input where it was possible and relevant. For example, there were many recommendations to make changes in schools and law enforcement. However, these are outside of the purview of King County. This is why the Road Map outlines levels of responsibility and what the County’s role is in relation to the recommendation. In this example, the feedback will be used to inform and guide partnership efforts with law enforcement and schools moving forward. Prior to community feedback, a 4th objective that focused on providing effective services and included alignment recommendations. Based on community feedback, Objective 4 was refined to focus on family supports and engagement, while Objective 5 addresses alignment and increasing effectiveness.

**Community feedback themes.** Community feedback represented a broad range of views, heavier on each end of the spectrum. Comments ranged from, “If they did the crime, they should pay the time” to “this is never going to work because it’s from within a broken system.” Many people reported being impacted by the system and shared extensive, personal stories and details. Some participants reported working with youth in some capacity.

**Community engagement sessions identified the following themes:**

- The County should partner with schools to disrupt the school to prison pipeline and consider them part of the legal system. Schools should be a supportive safety net, they should offer internal interventions, [crisis] resolutions, and connect youth with community resources rather than referring youth to law enforcement or to the Court. There should not be police officers at schools.
- Money should be divested from the legal system and put into youth supports, alternatives, and sustained community based investments. Funding should be less restrictive to avoid strings tying community from doing their best work.
- Listen to youth, impacted people, and the community to develop plans, identify needs, and develop accountability measures and to define success. Incorporate faith communities.
- Law Enforcement should immediately provide youth and families with options at first point of contact. All officers working with young people should be educated in cultural responsiveness, working with young people, and adolescent brain development. Over-policing needs to be addressed.
- Youth value relationship and connections. They need a positive, pro social network and should be involved in community.
- Diversions shouldn't require youth to plead guilty. Need multiple diversion points throughout the system that uses restorative options. Diversions should also include enrichment programs such as sports, cultural programs, music, church, job training programs, and community service.
- Youth in need of help should not have to get caught to get help. Youth should continue to be provided with care and support after the alternative program ends. Ensure that choices to fund programs are due to its ability to identify culturally and racially with the youth over the affordability of the program.
- More mentors, community ambassadors, advocates, and role models are needed. There should be service providers of color in the courtroom.
- Racial disproportionality in the application of sentencing should specifically be addressed. The impact of policies should be carefully considered and examined.
- The County should not build policy around making people comfortable. It should be willing to deal with the political fallout consequential of white fragility. Staff of color should be hired, promoted, and in leadership and decision making positions.
- Staff of color should not be tokenized; barriers for them should be removed, such as recruiting and hiring individuals with criminal records.

**Public survey comments included the following themes:**

- Many people provided feedback about the education system, prevention, wellbeing, families, health services, and recreation.
- Some believe that detention is necessary, while some believe that law enforcement and jails are only harmful.

**CYAB  
RECOMMENDATION 7**

*Policies as well as conversations about youth must be grounded in the fact that vast majority of youth are not involved in serious crimes. It is as harmful to couch conversations in fear of the rare serious offender as it is to create programs overly focused on these few. (See Appendix O)*

- Some of the most common feedback, if not the most, was that detention of youth is not racially implicated. The act of “bringing” race up is “racist.”
- Some said they did not believe that King County, law enforcement, or any other system player were responsible, but that rather it was the youth committing the crimes and parents needing to be held accountable.
- Many shared their disapproval of being asked to identify their race. Some believed that their voice was being invalidated or minimized by asking this question and declaring that most impacted voices would be centered in Zero Youth Detention work.
- People expressed their disbelief that achieving the goal of zero detained youth was possible.
- Many expressed their need for criminals to be off the street and to feel safe in their communities.
- Some said there should be more law enforcement, that the prison system should be expanded.
- A great number of people expressed the impression that disproportionality exists because youth of color are committing more crimes.

## SURVEY COMMENTS

*“Work to stop youth detention has to start early and stay involved with at risk families. Assisting struggling parents and single parents by providing supports long before children are getting into trouble is imperative. That’s what will create zero detention.”*

*“Ignore race and punish those breaking the law.”*

*“Cultural understanding and sensitivities are required in order for this to work.”*

*“Develop mentors for at risk youth that have walked in their shoes, but have overcome their challenges.”*

**Employee feedback themes.** Each unit participating in focus groups has very specific roles within the juvenile legal system and it is evident that their professional orientations influence the concerns and suggestions offered. There are, however, themes from the conversations and surveys that surfaced from the varied perspectives upon which every group touched.

All employee units expressed concern about the wellbeing of youth and families. Some units are more willing to accept Zero Youth Detention than others; some expressed fear for losing their jobs and having their livelihoods threatened. Many feel understaffed and under equipped to do their jobs and that these conversations are long overdue.

### **Employee focus group sessions identified the following themes:**

- Agreement that racial disproportionality in the juvenile legal system is a problem and cause for grave concern. There was not uniformity or common sentiments within or among groups about the causes or solutions to this injustice. Employees cited injustices they witnessed within the system.
- Each employee group expressed concerns about the Zero Youth Detention efforts being planned and discussed, and a need to ensure that policymakers, the public, and government leaders understood the implications Zero Youth Detention on youth and families as well as the layers of complexity and barriers within King County.
- All groups had questions regarding how law enforcement and schools were being engaged, due to the understanding that efforts regarding Zero Youth Detention could not be advanced unless robust partnerships with these players were broadened.

- All agreed on the need for effective preventative measures within the schools related to physical and mental health. Children at the youngest age are the most vulnerable to harm, and interventions can be most impactful during the first years of life.
- Nearly all groups expressed a need for accountability, transparency, alignment, and further coordination with of schools, law enforcement, and within King County.
- There were suggestions to tie funding to outcomes to incentivize systems to account for their roles that result in the progressive decline in wellbeing of underserved youth.
- Many participants expressed concerns with pace of reforms.
- There was skepticism articulated regarding community safety and accountability.
- Participants wanted to be sure that policymakers and other decision makers were fully aware of the complexities and nuances of the work involved in the juvenile legal system

**Employee survey responses included the following themes:**

- Need for support to be available at a family-level. Families often do not have the ability or capacity to engage in the legal system since it is not set up to accommodate them and youth often do not respond to the efforts that their family has made towards engaging them on a path towards wellbeing.
- There were many questions about how youth would be held accountable to follow through with counseling or other services to which they would be referred. Some employees said that many youth did not get the help they needed until they were placed on probation and threatened with greater system intervention.
- Safety was frequently noted - either in terms of community safety or safety of youth; need to be more ways to keep youth, families, and communities safe in the time of crisis.
- Some articulated a need for more therapeutic professionals working with youth in detention such as social workers, therapists, and medical providers.
- System barriers were identified, such as access to services in the system and length of time for a case to be adjudicated.

**Community and employee feedback resulted in the addition or refinement of the following action items related to:**

- The need for culturally relevant and responsive services for youth and families provided in community
- The need for culturally reflective staff
- Behavioral health services available *before* a youth encounters the legal system
- Calling for more support for community based services; more mentorship
- “Know your rights” training for youth and families
- Providing a specialized alternative to detention with a full continuum of behavioral health supports
- Increasing anti-racism and anti-bias training for County employees

As this work moves forward, the County will continue to seek input from a wide array of voices, but must continue to partner and be advised by the people who are most impacted by its policies and services. Youth and families of color who have had experiences with the legal system, as well as people from intersecting identities who are traditionally impacted by incarceration and racism, are poised to best advocate for their needs.<sup>129</sup> This approach challenges the ways in which government traditionally goes about its business, as government systems tend to perpetuate the status quo, and primarily look to “experts” rather than to impacted communities for solutions.

A particular consideration to be addressed during the next phase of Zero Youth Detention work is integrating the voices of crime survivors. This is an issue that arose frequently during employee engagement groups and in some survey comments. While restorative justice approaches intentionally include survivors in the work, and national data indicates how victims feel about alternatives to detention as noted above, it is necessary to determine how to respectfully and meaningfully involve survivors in the work in collaboration with internal partners and communities.

As seen in the general public survey comments, there were many, many comments about race provided, representing broad views. The perspective that race shouldn't matter prevents individuals and systems from grappling with how race does matter and impacts non-White youth and families.<sup>130</sup> The number and content of the comments related to race points to the opportunity for the County to step into community conversations around race while also confronting the impacts of institutional racism and the juvenile legal system. This effort aligns with the broader King County priority of leading with racial justice.<sup>131</sup>

Engagement participants provided a number of observations and suggestions regarding improving policing, schools, housing, and job opportunities. While all of these items are factors in lives of youth and communities, feedback that is directly actionable related to Zero Youth Detention is integrated into the Road Map objectives, strategies, action items, and next steps. Feedback pertaining to items outside of the scope of work of Zero Youth Detention is being shared to inform other county efforts such as Best Starts for Kids, the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan, and the County's Equity and Social Justice work.

It's important for all involved with this work to understand that engaging those most impacted takes resources: time, staff, funding, and data. It is also work that must be undertaken in the most respectful of ways. Progress on the road to Zero Youth Detention depends on authentic partnership, and collaboration within and among the wider community, employees, and labor. Moving forward, engagement will be continued with the similar groups depending on their level of interest. The voices of those most impacted and the people closest to the issue such as families, employees, and direct service providers will continue to guide the efforts and to develop success measures.

---

<sup>129</sup> *An individual's identity consists of multiple, intersecting factors, including gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality.*

<sup>130</sup> Waldman, Katy. (2018). *Sociologist Examines the White Fragility that Prevents White Americans from Confronting Racism*. *The New Yorker Magazine*. <https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/a-sociologist-examines-the-white-fragility-that-prevents-white-americans-from-confronting-racism>

<sup>131</sup> <https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/tools-resources/Racial-Justice.aspx>

## Conclusion

**This Road Map is a work in progress.** The Road Map's ultimate destination is Zero Youth Detention, but the journey itself is expected to yield changes in systems, policies, and services leading to better outcomes for youth and communities. To drive this work, King County is using the Public Health approach for Zero Youth Detention, bringing together community and system partners guided by the latest science on positive youth development to understand and implement what best promotes the well-being of youth and families and community safety.

The concept of Zero Youth Detention is at the intersection of a number of social movements and factors like homelessness, economics, mass incarceration, and racial justice, occurring at a time of unprecedented polarization of perspectives on these issues. For these reasons, consideration of what Zero Youth Detention means practically and philosophically spans the spectrum of beliefs. Research shows that promoting well-being, decreasing risk factors, and intervening early when issues arise are the most effective and least expensive ways to prevent problems that may lead to a youth's involvement with the juvenile legal system. These are the milestones on the path to Zero Youth Detention. Irrespective of one's perspective on whether getting to zero is possible, setting the ambitious vision of zero provides the necessary focus for recalibrating systems to better support healthy youth and family development and achieve better outcomes for youth and communities.

## Appendix A

**Glossary of Key Terms**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Adverse Childhood Experiences <i>or</i> “ACEs”	Stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect. They may also include household dysfunction such as witnessing domestic violence or growing up with family members who have substance use disorders. ACEs are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person’s lifespan.
Adjudication	A formal ruling by a judge on a case before the court.
At-Risk Youth <i>or</i> “ARY”	A type of petition that may be initiated by a parent, custodian or guardian. An ARY is defined as a juvenile who is absent from home for at least 72 consecutive hours without the consent of their parent; who is beyond the control of their parent such that the child’s behavior endangers the health, safety or welfare of the child or any other person; or who has a substance abuse problem for which there are no pending criminal charges related to the substance abuse.
Becca	A collection of three programs (Truancy, At-Risk Youth, and CHINS) developed from a 1995 Washington State legislative bill that addresses several areas of public policy, including those affecting truant, at-risk, and runaway youth.
Behavioral Health	An umbrella term that include mental health and substance use treatment or services.
Child in Need of Services <i>or</i> “CHINS”	A Child in Need of Services (CHINS) is defined as a juvenile who is beyond the control of their parent such that the child’s behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the child or other person; who has been reported to law enforcement as absent without consent for at least twenty-four consecutive hours on two or more separate occasions from the home of either parent, a crisis residential center, an out of home placement, or a court ordered placement; and has exhibited a serious substance abuse problem; or has exhibited behaviors that create a serious risk of harm to the health, safety or welfare of the child or any other person.
Cisgender	A term for someone who exclusively identifies as their sex assigned at birth. The term cisgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, hormonal makeup, physical anatomy or how one is perceived in daily life.
Community	A distinct and identifiable collection of individuals who despite diverse backgrounds share one or more characteristics such as geographic location, race or ethnicity, gender, age, or religion.
Credible Messenger	This term is used broadly to reference mentors for youth who share similar backgrounds and experiences as the youth they serve. “Credible Messenger Mentoring” is a specific transformative program model where mentors engage young people on their own terms in structured and intentional relationships to connect with and motivate young people involved in the legal system.
Culturally Reflective	When the composition of staff or providers mirrors the demographic portrait, shared identity, and same languages as consumers/clients.
Culturally Responsive Services	Are those that are respectful of, and relevant to, the beliefs, practices, culture and linguistic needs of diverse consumer/client populations and communities whose members identify as having particular cultural or linguistic affiliations by virtue of their place of birth, ancestry or ethnic origin, religion, preferred

**Appendix A**  
**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**

	language or language spoken at home. Cultural responsiveness describes the capacity to respond to the issues of diverse communities.
Dependency	A dependency action begins when a petition (a written request) is filed in Superior Court. This petition must allege that the child is "dependent." A "dependent child" is one who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has been abandoned by his or her parent, guardian, or other custodian;</li> <li>• Has been abused or neglected by a person legally responsible for his or her care; or</li> <li>• Has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of providing adequate care.</li> </ul>
Detention	Secure juvenile detention refers to a county-operated facility for confining youth while awaiting completion of legal proceedings or serving sentences up to 30 days.
Determinants of Equity	The social, economic, geographic, political and physical environments and conditions in which people live.
Diversion	Broadly described in in the Road Map, diversion is any opportunity to divert youth from the formal legal process and secure detention into alternative options. Court diversion is provided for in state statute <sup>1</sup> as an alternative accountability approach for certain less serious cases referred to legal system. Where a youth enters into an agreement with the Court to complete certain requirements and/or participate in services or programs, instead of detention; successful completion of the requirements results in the case not being filed. King County Superior Court’s Partnership for Youth Justice Community Accountability Boards program is an example of this type of diversion. <a href="#">Superior Court Juvenile Diversion</a>
Equity	Equity is the full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so all people achieve their full potential and thrive.
Evidence-Based Practices	Evidence-Based Practices are those for which research has been used to determine the effectiveness of the practice. The research utilizes scientifically-based rigorous research designs (i.e., randomized controlled trials, regression discontinuity designs, quasi-experiments, single subject, and qualitative research).
Families	Includes those people, defined by the youth and family, who are primary attachment relationships and provides essential care for the well-being of each other such as love, resources, supports, and guardianship.
Filing	After law enforcement refers a potential criminal case to the Court, the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (PAO) determines how to handle the referral. If the PAO determines the case belongs in juvenile court and has sufficient evidence, the PAO then can use a court diversion option (see diversion) or file the case to continue the formal legal process to determine whether the youth is guilty or not guilty.
Incarceration	Confinement of youth in a secure facility. Incarceration includes youth in detention (see definition) and youth sentenced to Washington State Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration secure residential facilities.
Juvenile	A youth under the age of 18.
Legal Financial Obligation (LFO)	Whenever a person is convicted in Superior Court, the court may order the payment of a legal financial obligation as part of sentencing. RCW 9.94A.760.

<sup>1</sup> Revised Code of Washington 13.40

**Appendix A**  
**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**

Legal System	System of statutory laws and regulations. Includes law enforcement, courts, prosecution, defense, and detention or jail.
Prevention	Act of stopping something from happening.
Promising Practices	Practices developed based on theory or research, but for which an insufficient amount of research results have determined the effectiveness of the practice.
Public Health Approach	A way to change a whole system to achieve better outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities. It is resilience-based, building on the strengths of families and communities. Applied to juvenile detention, a public health approach focuses on the well-being of youth, families, and communities to drive changes to services, systems, and root causes.
Racial Disparity and Racial Disproportionality	Racial disproportionately or disparity occurs when youth of color are overrepresented in the juvenile legal system or secure detention. In particular, it means that the proportion of youth of color in the legal system and secure detention is higher than their proportion in the general population. In general these terms refer to differential treatment or outcomes based on racial identity. It can also apply in other circumstances such as housing, employment, education, and social services.
Referral	A recommendation that law enforcement agencies submit to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office upon conducting an investigation during suspected wrongdoing
Restorative Justice	A suite of approaches focusing on repairing harm through reconciliation of all parties impacted. It starts the process of healing and transformation for both the individual who was harmed and the individual who caused the harm
Root Causes	The underlying or fundamental basis of a problem or situation.
Status Offenses	Conduct that would not be unlawful if committed by an adult but is unlawful only because of a child's or youth's legal minor status. Common status offenses include running away, truancy/chronic absenteeism, curfew violation, beyond the control of one's parents, and minor in possession of alcohol or tobacco products.
Trauma Informed Approach	An understanding that trauma and toxic stress can negatively impact the health of individuals, communities, and systems. This includes intergenerational trauma, racism and oppression, and direct and vicarious trauma. Key of a trauma informed approach aspects include: 1) recognizing the signs of trauma in communities; 2) integrating knowledge of trauma into policies and practices; 3) actively promoting healing and preventing re-traumatization among staff, communities and systems.
Truancy	When a child is absent from school. Washington State law, RCW 28A.225.030 requires that school districts file truancy petitions with the Juvenile Court when students (up to the age of 17) have accumulated seven unexcused absences in one month or ten unexcused absences in an academic year.
"Warm hand-off"	A facilitated transition of a client when moving from one program or service to another.

## Appendix B

## Appendix B Road Map to Zero Youth Detention

### Juvenile Justice Steering Committee Report Recommendations *King County Council Law and Justice Committee Briefing 2017-B0198*

1. **Education Summit** - One primary challenge moving forward will be for committee members to stay engaged with one another even if not everyone chooses to serve beyond their initial commitment. There is good work and strong efforts going on in each of the school districts. And one challenge they face will be to continue some form of collaboration among themselves and ultimately with the remaining JJESC and the broader community. Marcus Stubblefield has expressed plans to attempt to bring the districts together to for an education summit which was in the making but never actualized. This summit needs to take place in order to demonstrate a unified and collaborative effort across all districts.
2. **Broader Funding for Small Community-Based Organizations** - Community organizations continue to develop creative and responsive programming and their challenge continues to be greater access to funds to further develop programming. There continues to be a need to provide support with application processes and skills development for the fiscal and administrative expertise required to run and maintain grants.
3. **Ongoing Collaboration** - There is a strong willingness on the part of the PAO to continue to engage with all parties to find lasting solutions and move to a more *"best interests" model of juvenile justice in favor of an offense-based, "just deserts" model focusing on punishment and accountability* associated with the current Juvenile Justice Act. The JJESC and its members need to continue this collaboration.
4. **Further Engage Law Enforcement** – There are current collaborative efforts with law enforcement in the county notably, Tukwila as well as the King County Sheriff. This effort needs to be expanded to engage the rest of law enforcement in the county most notably the Kent and Seattle Police Departments. Marcus Stubblefield has expressed a desire to bring together law enforcement across the county to have a summit similar to the one for educator and this effort should be supported by the committee.
5. **Begin Efforts to Overhaul the Juvenile Justice Act** – The committee was presented with information on the JJA expressing the need to begin efforts to change legislation governing the Act. This will require a dedicated team or subgroup to identify short and long term goals along with intermediate steps to begin and complete an overhaul.
6. **New Approach to Mental Health Treatment and Care** – The mental health sub-group needs to regroup to identify a range of strategies and continue to develop plans to look at training opportunities as well as potential certification of providers who would be competent in providing culturally responsive evidence based interventions.
7. **High Risk Youth** – The committee needs to refocus its efforts to address needs of high risk youth as outlined in the four phase process. This phase was not addressed do to timing issues.
8. **Develop a Comprehensive Strategy for Job Development for Youth** – The committee should identify strategies to create employment opportunities and jobs creation for young people to help ease the effects of poverty and homelessness.

## Appendix B Road Map to Zero Youth Detention

9. **Engage in the Deeper Conversations on Race and Systemic Issues** – The committee should continue to explore and facilitate discussion on race and the broader implications of institutionalized racism and other systemic issues
10. **Support Ongoing Community Strategies** - The JJESC should either support or adopt a comprehensive model such as the one proposed by TeamChild to engage the community in the redesign, development, and deployment of community-based and community-driven solutions to support youth, families and community.

## Appendix C

**Diversion Recommendations for King County Juvenile Justice Steering Committee**  
**Adopted 8/16/18**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

King County should

1. Adopt a goal of redirecting 100% of youth referred to juvenile court who are eligible under SB 6550 to a pre-filing diversion option; set benchmarks for achieving that goal
  - a. Focus on needs and opportunities for youth rather than using offense-based criteria
  - b. Slow down the process for deciding whether to file charges and consider input from family, community, educators and other professionals who know and can support the youth
  - c. Bring community into the decision-making process around who gets to be redirected (see prosecutor recommendations, and amend to add)
  - d. Provide multiple opportunities for youth to be redirected/diverted
  
2. Educate and invest in the development of robust paths for law enforcement to redirect youth into family and community-based interventions and support. Invest in youth, family and community developed solutions that are aligned and prioritized as a first response to youth (at arrest and referral).
  
3. Invest in critically needed supports that meet basic needs that are fundamental to a youth's success (where possible leverage existing systems and services). Do not use the lack of basic supports (food, housing, education, health care, caring adults) to deny youth the opportunity for diversion.
  
4. Individualize the definition of success that meets youth where they are, allows for creative, meaningful, culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate ways for youth to understand the impact of their behavior and to promote healing and well-being for the youth, victims and community.
  
5. Hold itself accountable to the goal of 100% diversion of eligible youth by gathering and creating publicly facing data showing the number of youth arrested, referred to juvenile court, diverted or filed on disaggregated by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. Establish a (or use an existing) community and county stakeholder group to review information monthly and make recommendations for changes to policies, practices and investments that will achieve more successful outcomes for youth and achieve the benchmarks towards the goal of 100% diversion.

Background

King County's youth of color are more likely to be arrested, referred and filed on in juvenile court. Youth of color are less likely than white youth to be diverted and appear to be less successful in court-based diversion. The JJESC discussed critical shifts in practice, decision making and investments that need to happen to improve the opportunities for youth of color to be successful. All of these shifts are possible under current law. To be successful, we will need law enforcement, county prosecutors and the court to commit to partnering with family and community (including local municipalities, schools, and social service organizations).

The JJESC spent its April, May and June meetings diving deep into the question of how the county could divert more youth away from the juvenile justice system. Our April meeting held in Kent gave attendees common understanding of diversion, an overview of the new law expanding the ability to divert cases instead of filing, and a look at what is currently taking place in juvenile court. The May meeting was held in Tukwila and produced rich and varied ideas for goals and options for diversion. The June meeting brought together policy and investment recommendations.

The following is a synthesis of these three meetings and a set of recommendations for King County.

#### Overview of Diversion (Outline to be fleshed out)

Governed by RCW ---.

The Focus on prefiling – Law enforcement and prosecutorial

Current #'s

Racial Disparity exists –

Opportunity

Completion

Addressing underlying inequities

Potential for diversion as a result of law change RCW 6550; potential for impact on racial disparities

Almost all referrals have the potential for prefiling redirection

New law creates tremendous opportunity to provide different opportunities for success that will reduce juvenile justice

Implementation at county level

#### Goals & Essential Elements

- 100% Diversion
- Youth and family centered
- Community-based & delivered in culturally meaningful ways
- Tailored
- Multiple chances at diversion
- Addressing basic needs essential for success

**Appendix C**  
**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**

Recommendation	Right On?	What's Missing?	Examples of what it could look like?
1. 100% Diversion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Not offense based</li> <li>b. Slower process with more inputs</li> <li>c. Different decision makers</li> <li>d. Give more than one chance</li> </ul>			
2. More law enforcement strategies and options for diversion			
3. Prioritize youth, family and community developed options			
4. Make sure basic needs are met			
5. Define success tailored to youth and focused on well-being			
6. Hold the county accountable to the goal			

## Appendix D



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

### INTRODUCTION:

We wanted to put some big shift ideas for juvenile justice and detention reform on paper for discussion. The following is a working draft of ideas that could reorient our system in ways that we think might reduce racial and economic disparities in the juvenile justice system, improve long-term outcomes for children of color and those living in poverty, and substantially reduce the use of and perceived need for secure detention. Much work and discussion has taken place since this memo was written and circulated in March of 2015. But, the bottom line remains the same: *we need more investment in strategies that give teenagers and their families the ability to go directly into services and programs that address their needs without having to be processed and punished in the juvenile criminal justice system.*

It will take a big shift in our thinking and practices so that our response to behavior is to quickly understand and address the reasons behind it. Before we can get there, we need to recognize some things about our law enforcement and the juvenile justice system. First, they are set up to react to behavior, and react with punishment (and the threat of more punishment) as the default intervention. Services, support, and youth development programming are sometimes, but not always, added on or offered after youth have been arrested, detained and processed through the court process. At the front end, formal diversion is currently only available to youth who face low level or first time offenses, so many youth do not get the chance to benefit from a more community oriented approach. And, even those formal diversion programs don't reach and meet youth of color in a meaningful way. Second, we need to acknowledge that youth and their families experience overt and implicit bias everywhere. Teenagers that are getting the attention of the police and courts are more likely to be a youth of color. This negative attention has an impact on how young people view themselves and perceive the world around them. Our strategies and efforts need to recognize the dynamic created by years of over policing and punishing communities of color. While the people working within juvenile justice institutions may be well meaning, they may still be viewed as part of a system that has for generations served to incarcerate and undermine the success of certain individuals and communities. We also need to recognize that youth of color and their families suffer a disproportionate level of crime and violence, and that the equation



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

for addressing racial disparities should consider how we reduce victimization in addition to improving public safety.

In an ideal world, we would altogether stop police from targeting youth of color. When there are legitimate concerns about safety and well-being, we would make sure that families and youth who need support can get it without being charged with a crime. On the road to getting there, the following are some “big shift” ideas that could significantly reduce the need for formal court processing and detention with potential time frames for implementation. We have no doubt that many others that could be suggested. Time frames for considering or moving the ideas forward are suggested, though we recognize that a dedicated team of people, with perspectives from government, courts and community should be convened to dig into and inform the design and implementation of any of these Big Shift ideas.

### Big Shift Strategies and Potential Time Frames

- 1) Commit to Restorative Justice as a shift in philosophy and approach for the whole system, not just a program or pilot project.** *Take for example the work of the Partnership for Safety and Justice and hard work they have been doing around recognizing the common ground on which both victims and offenders are standing. In their [Moving Beyond Sides](http://www.safetyandjustice.org/files/Moving%20Beyond%20Sides%20Report%20Final_0.pdf) report ([http://www.safetyandjustice.org/files/Moving%20Beyond%20Sides%20Report%20Final\\_0.pdf](http://www.safetyandjustice.org/files/Moving%20Beyond%20Sides%20Report%20Final_0.pdf)), they say "Communities of color often suffer a disproportionate level of crime and violence while being simultaneously damaged by criminal justice policies that have an exaggerated emphasis on incarceration as the primary public safety tool." In this report, they also talk about the mutual goal of reducing recidivism and victimization.*
- 2) Implement a Reinvestment Strategy that takes savings in incarceration and court costs and reinvests them into communities and community based programs.** Consider the work done around Reinvesting in Youth and in the Youth Safely Home report. *This recommendation should be considered immediately.*
- 3) Include in the county’s proposed Best Starts Levy a dedicated dollar (\$) or percentage (%) commitment to fund community-based services for youth and communities that will**



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

**reduce the overrepresentation of youth of color and poor youth in the juvenile justice system.** Ensure that programs are directly linked to diverting youth from justice system involvement and replace arrest and detention. Incorporate the Youth Safely Home criteria for levy funded community based programming that will reduce the need for and use of incarceration. Site services in geographic areas in King County with high need. *This recommendation should be considered immediately.*

- 4) **Prioritize and direct MIDD (mental health sales tax dollars) funds to address the acute and chronic needs of youth who are being detained for serious offenses.** If a youth is already tiered into mental health services and is having an acute behavior incident, utilize an appropriate crisis response from the mental health system and not arrest and detention. Incorporate the Youth Safely Home criteria for MIDD funded community based programming that will reduce the need for and use of incarceration. Site services in geographic areas in King County with high need. *This recommendation should be considered immediately. UPDATE: Proposal for MIDD renewal contained \$1 million for mental health and behavioral health services to create alternatives to detention for youth with mental and behavioral health needs.*
- 5) **Ensure that the county's Youth Action Plan incorporates recommendations related to the reduction of the use of detention, the elimination of race and ethnic disparity in the child welfare, juvenile justice and education systems, and accountability measures for the county to achieve these goals.** *This recommendation should be considered immediately.*
- 6) **Provide a mechanism for collaborative oversight of all juvenile justice and detention programming with public and/or behavioral health with strong collaboration and emphasis on education and well-being.** Oversight of the juvenile justice system has not always been with adult corrections. A shift in responsibility and oversight with a shared and collaborative approach with child serving systems would help to reorient the system towards prevention and intervention. *This goal could be articulated immediately with planning and implementation over the next 18-36 months.*



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

- 7) **Shift the emphasis to services up front rather than after the fact.** Put in place a goal of putting the intense array of services (FFT, FIT, MST, ART, case management, drug and alcohol assessments, employment programs) up front and available to youth without charging them, without adjudicating them (a paradigm shift in what we divert) -- so they get all the available help and programming right away without having to get a juvenile criminal record. *This recommendation should be considered immediately.*
  
- 8) **Use alternative housing or electronic home monitoring instead of secure detention for all youth 14 years old or younger.** There is substantial research that describes the negative impact of incarceration on children and youth and the questionable efficacy as an intervention that reduces future delinquent behavior. EHM has been an effective alternative to detention that allows youth to continue to go to school and live at home. Currently our use of EHM is limited because of resources. It is also limited when youth do not have an adequate family or physical infrastructure to support the current technology (phone, home, responsible adult). Expanding EHM as well as creating alternative housing for youth would substantially reduce the need for detention and reduce the disruption that detention stays have on education, counseling and other youth development activities. Identifying barriers to current use, researching and putting better technology in place, and rethinking how the system could respond differently when a youth is not successful under EHM would be important aspects related to making this shift. *This shift could be implemented in the next year. **Update:** The juvenile court has an internal work group that is exploring alternatives to detention.*
  
- 9) **House all youth subject to decline (to the adult system) in the youth facility instead of the adult jail.** As changing policy and practice reduce the number of youth in secure detention, plans should be made to ensure that all youth are housed in a youth facility instead of adult jail. Currently youth subject to decline are in the Kent Regional Justice Center. Under the federal law, youth are required to be separated by sight and sound from adults. This isolation and the lack of programming for youth can be a source of additional trauma and create substantial disruption in their ability to complete education and get continue any community-based counseling. Since the length of time for incarceration in these cases can



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

be quite long, it is even more important that services are developmentally appropriate and trauma informed. These important shifts in treatment are not likely to be priorities in the adult system. *Plans for this shift can begin immediately and could be implemented when the new facility is opened. **Update:** There are efforts underway to place all newly declined youth in the juvenile detention facility instead of the adult jail. The population of youth in the adult system are almost all youth of color, so this approach would increase youth of color in the detention facility, but would be better for the youth because of the more appropriate programming available in juvenile detention.*

**10) Ensure that any youth that is arrested and detained receives trauma informed and developmentally appropriate care and treatment.** This shift requires us to review in detail how we process youth through arrest, detention and the court system. Much of the way we do business has been informed and shaped by the adults who work in the system. “Walking through” the current process from the perspective of youth and families and with the expertise of educators, counselors, psychologists and doctors would help to inform how we could put better practices in place. For example, handcuffing, shackling, being searched are all common correctional practices. Are they the best approach given our current detention population that has high prevalence of disability and trauma? What counseling is available to youth when they are incarcerated? Can we do things differently? Also consider our system’s responses to specific groups of children and specific offenses and work on developing recommendations for policy changes that allow us to go directly to treatment rather than the criminalization of disability related behavior. Foster youth, youth with disabilities, youth with developmental delay, LGBTQ youth and girls all have unique needs and strengths and would benefit from a holistic approach to their care and treatment. Considering an example of a specific offense type, children who are accused of sexually acting out within the home (intra family) may be better served through an intensive treatment oriented program that addresses the health and mental health needs of the child and family. Saddling youth with sex offender status, mandatory registration, and severing contact with family creates more trauma and victimization. *This analysis could begin immediately with a shift in practice and policy taking place within 18-24 months.*



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

**11) Provide an adequately resourced holistic defense/advocacy team (see TeamChild’s work and the Bronx Defender’s model) to support the youth and family throughout their contact with the juvenile justice system.** With the restructuring of public defense in King County, there has already been discussion about creating a more holistic defense practice. There are examples like the Bronx Defenders as well as the collaborative approach that TeamChild is currently practicing with the juvenile defenders in King County. A true holistic defense/advocacy team should be piloted for youth. While this may be more expensive than the current model because it means lower caseloads and more staffing from other professional disciplines, it reduces costs in the long run because the team can secure more sustainable solutions that address not only the presenting behavior, but also the underlying reasons for the behavior. In addition or alternatively, giving all youth coming through the justice system a more thorough legal needs assessment and matching that need to TeamChild and other resources could also result in reduced recidivism TeamChild’s evaluation show that youth who receive civil legal advocacy have an average of four fewer charges than those youth who do not receive civil legal advocacy. *A pilot and/or additional investment in expanded services could be put in place in the 0-12 months.*

**12) To address the school to prison pipeline,**

- a) Instead of arrest and detention for school based offenses, create restorative school and community based responses as the default response.** *This shift would take 24-36 months. UPDATE: pilot restorative practices are taking place around the county. A mapping of where these pilots are and their success in reducing exclusions would help in identifying gaps and opportunities for expansion.*
- b) For all students having contact with the juvenile justice system, instead of other sanctions, provide educational support, special education, assessment, tutoring and advocacy.** Consider participation in these activities as THE way to satisfy the offender matter, which means that the court and prosecutor would give up the other sanctions and processing associated with the initial referral. *This shift would take 12-36 months.*
- c) Ensure that court expectations (hearings, detention, etc.) do not contribute to disruption in a youth’s education.** *This recommendation should be considered immediately.*



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

### **13) Reduce and Ultimately Eliminate the Use of Secure Detention for the following groups: status offenders, probation warrants and probation violations, minor offenses, and drug/alcohol offenses. (12-36 months)**

#### **a) Status Offenses<sup>1</sup>**

- i) Rather than staffing a separate “detention wing” for the status offenders, use savings to pay for field workers and education support and advocacy, family counseling, mental health support, housing assistance, and other youth development activities.
- ii) If a youth fails to appear or if there is an allegation of noncompliance with an order, deploy a field worker to meet with youth at school or home and to connect with them and to identify reasons for not coming to court or for problems complying with conditions.
- iii) Identify and pay for additional community support that the youth and family need. Consider and address transportation challenges. Tap into existing social services (mental health, child welfare, school, etc.) and have a plan to incentivize progress.

#### **b) Probation Warrants and Probation Violations<sup>2</sup>**

---

<sup>1</sup> **Status offenses** refer to those behaviors for which youth (and not adults) can be subjected to the intervention and authority of law enforcement and the courts. Status offenders are typically subject to court orders in truancy proceedings, Child in Need of Services proceedings, At Risk Youth proceedings and dependencies. Types of behaviors that could lead to arrest and detention include running away, not following home rules, and skipping school. Status offenders made up 180 of the admissions to detention in 2014 and stayed an average of 2.85 days (580 bed nights). The average daily population of status offenders in detention is about 1.4 (2.5%).

<sup>2</sup> **Violations of conditions or expectations imposed by the court** can result in youth being detained for up to 30 days. These detention stays may be ordered if a youth violates the conditions of community supervision (or probation). Youth may also be arrested and detained on outstanding warrants that are issued by a court when a youth does not show up for a scheduled court hearing.



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

- i) Rather than staffing court and detention for probation violations and probation warrants, use savings to pay for field workers and education support and advocacy, family counseling, mental health support, housing assistance, and other youth development activities.
  - ii) Retool probation intervention strategies with youth development principles. (For example, for every one sanction there should be three to four incentives.)
  - iii) If a youth fails to appear or if there is an allegation of noncompliance with an order, deploy a field worker(s) to meet with youth at school or home and to connect with them and to identify reasons for not coming to court or for problems complying with conditions.
  - iv) Identify and pay for additional community support that the youth and family need. Consider and address transportation challenges. Tap into existing social services (mental health, child welfare, school, etc.) and have a plan to incentivize progress.
- c) Minor Offenses (Theft 3, Trespass, Property Crimes)**
- i) Look closely at law enforcement referrals and deploy a team (consisting of community, law enforcement, and court stakeholders) to strategize around addressing arrests for behaviors resulting in high disparities for youth of color – Examples of potentially fruitful areas to target analysis, strategy and resources: Theft 3 arrests in Tukwila, Renton, Kent and Bellevue and Train fare evasion, metro fare evasion, trespass (King County Sheriff/Metro). **Update: A pilot is being proposed and recommendation for funding from BSK is in the works.**
- d) Drug/alcohol referrals**
- i) Provide up front behavioral health strategies, including treatment and positive youth development activities rather than arrest and detention
  - ii) Engage youth in education and employment strategies
  - iii) Provide family and community based support rather than arrest and detention



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

Youth Safely Home –Report -

<http://www.safelyhomecampaign.org/Portals/0/Documents/Safely%20Home%20Preview/safelyhome.pdf?ver=2.0>



## BIG SHIFT ideas for Juvenile Justice Reform:

A working draft for discussion, Updated: 9.15.2016

---

### THE KEY MESSAGES FROM SAFELY HOME ARE:

**A lack of effective alternatives for high-need youth contributes to youth incarceration.** Systems cannot achieve deincarceration goals unless they build continuums of community-based programs to serve *all* youth, especially those with the highest need (highest risk), and have the willingness to implement them. Currently, most kids with complex needs are left out of services or lack the support they need in current services and as a result, end up "left out and locked up."

**Virtually anything that can be done in an institution can be done better in the community.** Whether a youth needs 24/7 supervision, access to treatment or a way to appreciate the consequences of his behavior, an effective community-based program can create that environment in a way that keeps a youth safe and increases the likelihood that he or she will succeed.

**Systems can redirect institutional dollars toward less expensive community programs.** Effective community-based programs can serve three to four kids in the community for the same price as locking one up. In fact, if communities served 20 youth in the community over 6 months, instead of through out-of-home placement, they could save more than half a million dollars.

**Communities can't climb out of poverty, neighborhood violence, and other risk factors through incarceration, especially of their youth.** Risk factors that make youth vulnerable to incarceration cannot be eliminated through incarceration. In fact, many of the environmental and social factors that contribute to youth incarceration get worse, not better with incarceration.

**Community-based programs that provide the right amount of intensity can provide safe and effective alternatives to youth incarceration and residential placement.** The elements of effective community-based programs that will be discussed in detail in the report include:

- Accept all kids and adopt "no reject" policies
- Be available, accessible and flexible
- Empower voice, choice & ownership
- Individualize services for each youth
- Ensure family-focused services
- Take a strength-based approach
- Provide culturally competent services
- Engage youth in work
- Prioritize safety and crisis planning
- Provide unconditional caring (no-eject policies)
- Create opportunities for civic engagement and giving back
- Cultivate long-term connection to community

## Appendix E

# Community Consortium

## King County Zero Youth Detention Proposal

This proposal seeks to eliminate juvenile detention while reducing the quantity and disproportionality of youth arrests and filings across King County. It further seeks to shift a punitive youth criminal justice system to a restorative model that prioritizes the well-being, education, and economic stability of young people. In accomplishing this, it is committed to making the King County juvenile justice system the leader in youth outcomes, public safety, and equity.

### Issue

In 2016, King County held 887 youth in detention. Culminating with detention, our current juvenile justice pipeline has a disproportionately harmful impact on youth of color. Though youth of color represent less than half of King County's youth population, in 2016 they represented 67% of all referrals, 80% of all filings, and 84% of all youth in detention. Once a referral has been made, youth of color are twice as likely to have their case filed and 29% less likely to be referred to a diversion program. The disproportionality is particularly stark for black youth, who represent just 10% of the population yet over half of all filings and over half of all days spent in detention. These disparities begin with a broader trend, that youth of color are more likely to be disciplined in school<sup>1</sup> and arrested in the community<sup>2</sup> when engaging in the same behaviors as white youth.

### Proposal

To eliminate juvenile detention while reducing the quantity and disproportionality of youth arrests and filings, we propose the establishment of a community-based intervention model to support youth at every stage in the justice process—from prevention to detention. It is designed to replace the school-to-prison pipeline with a school-to-life success pipeline. Instead of suspensions and expulsions, we will have restorative and culturally-relevant programming. Instead of police, prosecutors, and judges, we will have mentors, counselors, and circle keepers. Instead of frustration and denial, we will have purpose and opportunity. Instead of jails, we will have homes, schools, jobs, and a community that stands with our youth.

This model is premised on the belief that when given hope, opportunity, a chance to heal, and the acceptance and support of their community, every one of our youth can become a powerful, positive leader. Our approach is grounded in the foundational belief that punishment and ostracization are ineffective deterrents to unproductive behaviors, while guidance towards meaningful professional, educational, and social opportunities are much more effective incentives to forging a positive path. This proposal arises from the experience, voices, and hearts of youth, families, and community organizations directly involved with and impacted by the current system. Furthermore, it has been developed in collaboration with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO), which is ready to refer youth to the program immediately.

---

<sup>1</sup> Rudd, Thomas (2014). Racial Disproportionality in School Discipline: Implicit Bias is Heavily Implicated. Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University (Issue Brief). <[bit.ly/1gqrFAU](http://bit.ly/1gqrFAU)>

<sup>2</sup> Huizinga D et al (2007). Disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system: A study of differential minority arrest/referral to court in three cities. A Report to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <[bit.ly/2iGEUX0](http://bit.ly/2iGEUX0)>

The community-based intervention model includes three components: community-based mentors, responsive programming, and access to services.

**Community-based mentors.** Every youth will be connected with community-based mentors available to support them 24/7. These mentors are credible messengers—they're community-based; share similar racial, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds with our youth; and have lived experience with the justice system. They build strong relationships with their youth and support youth as they develop strong, positive relationships with their family, peers, and community. They work with youth to set and accomplish goals, from finding a job to graduating to engaging with their community. They also leverage their credible messenger status to foster an empowering sense of personal and cultural identity within each youth, which is essential to overcoming personal and race-based trauma. This approach is informed by a wide body of research on effective mentoring in the criminal justice setting.<sup>3</sup>

**Responsive programming.** Youth will meet regularly for programming through which youth address their trauma, affirm their value, and develop the skills they need to be successful on the path they take. Each workshop will begin with healing—using healing circles to address the trauma our youth carry with them. They also include asset development, cultural history, and building the life and leadership skills necessary to thrive in social, educational, community, and professional settings. This programming is designed to be a shared experience, allowing youth to build personal assets while simultaneously establishing a supportive peer network. The approach of these sessions is informed by the research on utilizing restorative justice<sup>4</sup> and positive youth development<sup>5</sup> in the criminal justice setting.

**Access to services.** In addition to strengthening our youth's sense of worth, hope, purpose, and connection, this program will also connect them to a wide range of services that meet their basic needs and goals. These services may include housing, job training, substance abuse, mental health, educational support, and much more depending on the needs of each youth.

This core model will be available to youth at every stage of justice involvement, from prevention to diversion to detention to probation. The intensity and focus of the model will adjust to reflect the varying needs of youth at each phase.

**Prevention.** At the prevention phase, it will be available as both school and community-based program targeting high need youth. It will focus on personal healing, building a strong, supportive community, and amplifying the life, leadership, and academic skills necessary to thrive in and

---

<sup>3</sup> See a compilation of such research here: NYC Department of Probation, NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (2012). AIM (Advocate, Intervene, Mentor) Program Concept Paper. <[on.nyc.gov/2pU5bGc](http://on.nyc.gov/2pU5bGc)>

<sup>4</sup> Lambson, Suvu Hynynen (2015). Peacemaking Circles: Evaluating a Native American Restorative Justice Practice in a State Criminal Court Setting in Brooklyn. New York: Center for Court Innovation. <[bit.ly/2qecERI](http://bit.ly/2qecERI)> See also: Latimer, Jeff, Craig Dowden, & Danielle Muise (2005). The Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Practices: A Meta-Analysis. *The Prison Journal*, 85(2), 127-144. <[bit.ly/2qPx8NB](http://bit.ly/2qPx8NB)>

<sup>5</sup> Butts, Jeffrey A., Gordon Bazemore, & Aundra Saa Meroe (2010). Positive Youth Justice--Framing Justice Interventions Using the Concepts of Positive Youth Development. Washington, DC: Coalition for Juvenile Justice. <[bit.ly/2pU8f58](http://bit.ly/2pU8f58)>

beyond school. This will be implemented in partnership with willing schools. By reaching youth before involvement with the justice system, we can reduce the arrests that lead to detention.

**Diversion.** At the filing phase, it will be available as a diversion program for offenses up to the felony-level. To graduate from the program, youth must meet graduation criteria designed to build the support network and personal assets they need to thrive in the community. Youth will remain in the program until they graduate, for a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve months, though they can continue receiving services as appropriate. By giving prosecutors a powerful alternative to prosecution, we can reduce the number of youth sentenced to detention.

**Probation.** In collaboration with probation officers, we will implement an opportunity-based probation model. In this model, the youth, probation officer, and a Community Ambassador will meet to discuss the terms of the probation. The terms will include positive, meaningful goals for the youth to meet. In the same manner as the diversion program, this opportunity-based probation model is designed to build the personal assets youth need to thrive in the community. By empowering probation officers to design a probation plan that helps youth build assets to avoid future justice involvement, we can reduce the number of probation violations and, thus, the number of youth in detention.

**Detention.** At the detention phase, the model has a short and medium-term objective. Short term, it will support youth currently in detention to reduce length of stay and prepare them for successful reentry. Medium term, it will expand alternatives to detention for youth with urgent needs. Preparing youth for reentry will involve addressing the personal healing, life skills, and leadership opportunities necessary for them to thrive once released. In establishing alternatives to detention, we also need options that (1) address the critical needs of each youth (e.g. mental health), (2) keep the youth safe, (3) keep the public safe, and (4) prepare youth for long-term success.

Details for each of these programs are available in the sections to follow.

## **Who We Are**

This proposal comes directly from voices of the youth, the mothers, the fathers, and the elders of our community. The organizations behind this proposal exist to build a community in which our youth feel the hope and strength they need to become the leaders that transform our world.

This proposal will unite the work of a wide range of community organizations as it relates to building powerful, positive youth leaders in our communities. The organizations involved in this proposal are non-profit organizations based in south King County that grew out of needs in their communities. They are run by leaders who live in the community, who founded their organization in response to needs they see every day in their neighborhoods, schools, churches, and streets. These organizations offer a range of services including healing circles, asset development, intergenerational mentorship, criminal diversion, connection to services, and more. Each of these programs has been developed by bringing together the voices of community leaders and youth to develop and validate their design. We will continue that work with this program.

Furthermore, this proposal will unite the efforts of the community and the institutions that serve it—from the schools to the courts to the detention centers. Every step has been and will continue to be

**Appendix E**  
**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**

taken in collaboration with the support of our institutional stakeholders. This collaboration has been indispensable in accomplishing our shared goals of making King County the leader in youth outcomes, public safety, and juvenile justice equity.

## **Diversion: Alternative to Prosecution**

To reduce the number and disproportionality of youth filings, we will offer a community-based diversion program for youth charged with up to a Class B felony. This program will provide a minimum of three months of ongoing support for youth. Each youth will continue with the program until they graduate, for up to 12 months. The program will have three components: responsive programming, community-based mentors, and access to services.

Youth will complete the program when they have met the graduation criteria, which are designed to establish the positive assets our youth need to thrive in the community.<sup>6</sup> The criteria are outlined in the table below. They include six mandatory items (marked by \* ) and six non-mandatory items of which they must complete at least three. Completing these requirements will take a minimum of 3 months and may take up to 12 months.

Personal Healing and Skill Development	Positive Community Engagement	Personal Milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Complete 3 healing circles*</li> <li>❖ Complete life skills curriculum*</li> <li>❖ Complete a personal plan of action*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Meet weekly with mentor*</li> <li>❖ Regular engagement in a prosocial activity (e.g. church, volunteering, art)*</li> <li>❖ Bring a friend to join in healing circles &amp; programming</li> <li>❖ Complete 30 hours of community service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Attend school (traditional or alternative) or apply to at least 3 jobs*</li> <li>❖ Have a steady job</li> <li>❖ Maintain passing grades and 85% attendance in school (traditional or alternative school)</li> <li>❖ Have stable housing</li> <li>❖ Complete substance abuse treatment and/or pass drug tests</li> </ul>

While the diversion will be complete upon graduation, youth may continue to receive services beyond graduation as appropriate.

### **Referral Process**

Eligible youth include all those 18 and under being considered for any charge up to a Class B. We will collaborate with the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office to establish the referral criteria, which will include an established voice in the referral process for community partners. In addition, eligible youth can include those who would benefit from services who are connected to others in the program. By allowing “social contact” referrals, we will ensure that youth are never required to commit a crime to get support.

### **Goals**

By establishing a youth diversion program capable of handling felony-level offenses, we aim to improve youth outcomes, increase equity, prevent youth from deeper penetration into the criminal justice system, prevent reoffending, decrease costs, strengthen our communities, and increase procedural justice.

---

<sup>6</sup> These assets directly address the eight, well-established predictors of engaging in criminal behavior, known as the “central eight.” See: Bonta, James and Andrews, D. A. (2007). *Risk-Need-Responsivity Model for Offender Assessment and Rehabilitation*. (User Report No. 2007-06). Ottawa, Ontario: Public Safety Canada. <bit.ly/2r15blc>

We will track youth outcomes throughout the program on a range of measures. We will measure both program compliance (attendance, responsiveness to mentor, etc.) and broader outcomes (recidivism rate, achievement of positive milestones (e.g. stable housing, steady job, on track to graduate), positive engagement with the community).

**Resources**

This program will be run and supported by individuals who are a part of and reflective of the youths' community. Community Ambassadors will act as case managers for each youth, coordinating their programming, connecting them to services, and acting as mentor. Programming and services will be offered in collaboration with a variety of community-based organizations, as appropriate for the needs of each youth.

## **Detention: Supporting Youth Currently in Detention**

We will support youth currently in detention with the objectives of reducing length of stay and preparing them for successful reentry. Both objectives require building the assets youth need to demonstrate their readiness to rejoin the community. This program ties directly to the opportunity-based probation model.

This work will target youth in detention for 20 days or more. As with the opportunity-based probation model, each youth will be assigned a community ambassador. Community ambassadors will have a strong understanding of the needs of the justice system, the community, and this youth. To understand the needs of the youth, they will meet with the youth, connect with their family, and gather additional context from the community. Ultimately, the community ambassador will advocate for outcomes that meet the needs of all stakeholders—the youth, the community, and the justice system.

The community ambassador will collaborate with the youth and stakeholders across the justice system to establish a personal plan of action that lays out the milestones necessary to earn a reduced length of stay and demonstrate readiness for successful release. (These milestones may often reflect the graduation criteria of the diversion program.)

Upon release, this community ambassador will remain with the youth throughout his or her probation. This will ensure youth rejoin the community with a trusted mentor who will continue to support their success.

### **Goals**

In addition to reducing length of stay, we aim to improve youth outcomes, increase equity, prevent youth from deeper penetration into the criminal justice system, prevent reoffending, decrease costs, strengthen our communities, and increase procedural justice.

We will track youth outcomes throughout the program on a range of measures. We will measure both program compliance (attendance, responsiveness to mentor, etc.) and broader outcomes (recidivism rate, achievement of positive milestones (e.g. stable housing, steady job, on track to graduate), positive engagement with the community).

### **Resources**

Community ambassadors will be a part of and reflective of the youths' community. They will coordinate programming, act as mentor, and connect youth to services as appropriate and possible. Programming and services will be offered in collaboration with a variety of community-based organizations.

## **Detention: Alternatives to Detention**

In some instances, our youth need a safe, secure facility where they can get the support they need to be fully prepared to rejoin the community. Today, the detention center is the only option they have. We propose building alternatives to detention.

These alternatives need to feel like a home, not a prison. They need to offer round the clock staffing with 24/7 security. They need to provide or offer access to a wide array of services. Critically, these homes need to be located within the community, both so their family and community can continue to support them and so they can access the same local services they will continue to access after release. Furthermore, these homes need to be gender-specific and have a low staff-to-youth ratio (approximately 1-to-4, with no fewer than two staff).

To support their healing, growth , and future outcomes, we will offer youth the responsive programming, community-based mentorship, and access to services described above.

It needs to be stressed that we aim to use these alternative facilities in extremely rare instances—only when there is no other way to meet the needs of the youth and community.

## **Probation: Opportunity-Based Model**

In collaboration with probation officers, we further propose to extend the diversion framework into an opportunity-based probation model. This model will introduce a community ambassador to the probation process. Community ambassadors will have a strong understanding of the needs of the justice system, the community, and this youth. To understand the needs of the youth, they will meet with the youth, connect with their family, and gather additional context from the community. Ultimately, the community ambassador will advocate for outcomes that meet the needs of all stakeholders—the youth, the community, and the justice system.

To begin, the youth, the probation officer, and a community ambassador will meet to discuss the terms of the probation. The terms will include positive, meaningful goals for the youth to meet. (These goals may often be similar to the graduation criteria in the diversion program.) The terms will also include rewards for meeting milestones towards these goals. In the same manner as the diversion program, this opportunity-based probation model is designed to build the personal assets youth need to thrive in the community.

Furthermore, just as in the diversion program, the community ambassador will meet regularly with each youth. They will be available to support them 24/7, help them set and achieve meaningful goals, and help them establish strong relationships with their peers, family, and community. Through this mentorship, the ambassadors' objective is to help the youth meet the terms of their probation while supporting their journey to becoming positive leaders in the community.

### **Referral Process**

Eligible youth include all youth on probation. We will collaborate with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Probation Division of King County District Court to establish the referral criteria, which will include an established voice in the referral process for community partners, as well as the process and expectations for ongoing case management.

### **Goals**

Probation violations a top reason youth end up in detention. We aim to change this. More broadly, by establishing an opportunity-based probation model, we aim to improve youth outcomes, increase equity, prevent youth from deeper penetration into the criminal justice system, prevent reoffending, decrease costs, strengthen our communities, and increase procedural justice.

We will track youth outcomes throughout the program on a range of measures. We will measure both program compliance (attendance, responsiveness to mentor, etc.) and broader outcomes (recidivism rate, achievement of positive milestones (e.g. stable housing, steady job, on track to graduate), positive engagement with the community).

### **Resources**

Community ambassadors will be a part of and reflective of the youths' community. They will help coordinate programming, connect youth to services, and act as mentor. Programming and services will be offered in collaboration with a variety of community-based organizations, as appropriate for the needs of each youth.

## **Prevention: School-Based Programming**

To reduce the number and disproportionality of youth involved with the justice system, we will establish school-based intervention programs to unlock the brilliance in our highest need youth. In partnership with willing middle and high schools across South Seattle / King County, we will support our highest need youth in their journey to become powerful, positive leaders through responsive programming, place-based mentorship, and access to services. In addition, we will offer peacekeeping and healing circles for both youth and staff at schools to build a culture of humanization and mutual respect.

This work is designed to complement and support other efforts occurring at each school, such as check and connect initiatives, restorative justice programs, counseling, PBIS programs, etc., and will coordinate with them as appropriate. When possible, this will all be done in partnership with community-based organizations who have already established an enduring presence in the school (e.g. WA-BLOC at Rainier Beach High School).

### **Goals**

This programming will include the youth at each school most severely impacted by trauma and inequity, with the intent of giving them the healing, skills, and community they need to thrive. Our staff programming will focus on broadening staff's respect for the trauma their students carry and on incorporating trauma-informed, culturally responsive practices into classroom management and school discipline.

Collectively, the school-based programming is designed to meet the following goals:

- Youth will address their trauma, affirm their value, and strengthen the assets they need to thrive in social, educational, community, and professional settings.
- Youth will have a multi-tiered community of support that includes participating peers, participating staff, and their program leader / mentor.
- Youth and staff will humanize and dialogue with each other, developing a shared understanding that allows them to strengthen and, at times, repair relationships.
- Staff will be better prepared to adopt restorative, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive approaches to discipline and classroom management.
- Youth and staff will become leaders of change in creating an equitable, culturally responsive, and safe school climate.

To measure our success, we will track the transformation of students (e.g. attendance, GPA, % on track to graduate, discipline, asset development), staff (e.g. satisfaction, retention), and school climate (e.g. trust, respect, aspiration) throughout the year.

### **Resources**

This program will be run and supported by individuals who are a part of and reflective of the youths' community. Programming, mentorship, and services will be offered in collaboration with a variety of school and community-based organizations, as appropriate for the needs of each youth. Ideally, an existing place-based organization will be able to lead this work within each school.

## Community Partners

This program will be led by Community Passageways and implemented as a partnership of community partners. The following organizations are formally involved in developing this effort and others are in the process of joining as well, such as EPIC (Ending the Prison Industrial Complex):

**Community Passageways.** Community Passageways unlocks the promise of the youth who face the highest barriers to reaching their potential. It offers healing circles, aspirational programming, and 24/7 mentorship in schools, detention centers, criminal diversion programs, and the community as a whole. It is also a community advocate for youth in the justice system, collaborating with judges and the prosecuting attorney's office to drop charges against youth who complete its programming. Community Passageways also continually creates opportunities for youth to become leaders in the community through advocacy, internships, advisory boards, and peer mediation.

**GuidenU4Life.** Louis Guiden Jr., CEO, has extensive knowledge and experience working with young offenders who are involved in the criminal justice system. Acknowledged as a subject matter expert in the field of juvenile delinquency, GuidenU4life has been contracted with several juvenile facilities in the Puget Sound. Further validating his expertise in this field, he was recognized in 2010 by the National Gang Crime Research Center in Chicago for his contribution to gang prevention, intervention, and research. Through this work, Louis has built a solid reputation for community mobilization, organizational capacity building, and intervention strategies reaching the growing population of incarcerated males of color.

**Team Child.** TeamChild is a not-for-profit law firm that provides free legal representation to low-income youth who are involved or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system. Youth seeking help from TeamChild have often faced many challenges in their lives. They may have struggled with school, experienced trauma or violence in their homes or community, experience mental health needs or drug and alcohol issues, lived in unsafe or unstable housing, or become entangled in the child welfare or juvenile justice system. While every youth TeamChild serves has unique circumstances, strengths, needs, and goals, they all face legal barriers that block their access to support they need. TeamChild believes that young people should take an active part in coming up with solutions to the problems they face. Our attorneys work directly with youth to help them identify their goals and create an advocacy plan that will achieve those goals. TeamChild attorneys are there to help youth understand their legal rights and make informed decisions every step of the way.

**The Glover Empower Mentoring (G.E.M.) Program.** This community based nonprofit organization offers mentoring to young men in and around Kent, WA and South King County. Working together with the City of Kent and other community based organizations, G.E.M. seeks to provide mentoring, academic tutoring, and life skills.

**Public Defender Association.** Public Defender Association (PDA) advocates for justice system reform and develops alternatives that shift from a punishment paradigm to a system that supports individual and community health. It also provides technical assistance to community partners who are committed to these goals. It is the Project Manager for LEAD<sup>®</sup>, which reduces racial disparity in the justice system by providing an alternative outcome for police engagement with people who commit law violations due to unmet behavioral health needs, particularly addiction.

**SafeFutures Youth Center.** SafeFutures empowers and advocates for underserved young people from low-income communities and communities of color to maximize their potential. The Youth Center’s prevention and intervention programs and services aim to reduce youths’ involvement in the juvenile justice system, gangs, and school truancy and drop out. It is here to ensure that our young people emerge confident, resourceful, engaged community members with the tools and support to navigate their futures.

**Companion Athletics.** Companion Athletics is a non-profit organization that creates athletic, leadership, and technology programs that promote creativity and solidarity among East African immigrant and refugee families. Through these programs, it aims to create young leaders who will lift their community by giving back and becoming stewards who are role models to their peers.

## Appendix F

---

**Historical Racism References**

---

1. Fredrickson, George M. (2003). The Historical Origins and Development of Racism. Corporation for Public Broadcasting. [The Historical Origins and Development of Racism](#)
2. Reskin, Barbara. (2012) The Race Discrimination System. Annual Review of Sociology Vol. 38:17-35. [The Race Discrimination System](#)
3. Tonry, Michael. (2010) The Social, Psychological, and Political Causes of Racial Disparities in the American Criminal Justice System. Scholarly Repository University of Minnesota Law School. [The Social, Psychological, and Political Causes of Racial Disparities in the American Criminal Justice System](#)
4. Henning, Kristin N. (2013) Criminalizing Normal Adolescent Behavior in Communities of Color: the Role of Prosecutors in Juvenile Justice Reform. Georgetown Law the Scholarly Commons. [Criminalizing Normal Adolescent Behavior in Communities of Color: the Role of Prosecutors in Juvenile Justice Reform](#)
5. Subramanian, Ram. (2015) Incarceration's Front Door: The Misuse of Jails in America. Vera Institute of Justice. [Incarceration's Front Door: The Misuse of Jails in America](#)
6. Daly, Kathleen. (1994) Criminal Law and Justice System Practices as Racist, White, and Racialized. Washington and Lee Law Review, Vol 51 Issue 2 Article 4 Spring 3-1. [Criminal Law and Justice System Practices as Racist, White, and Racialized.](#)
7. Mauer, Marc. King, Ryan (2007) Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity. The Sentencing Project. [Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity](#)

## Appendix G

# HOW KING COUNTY IS BUILDING EQUITY...

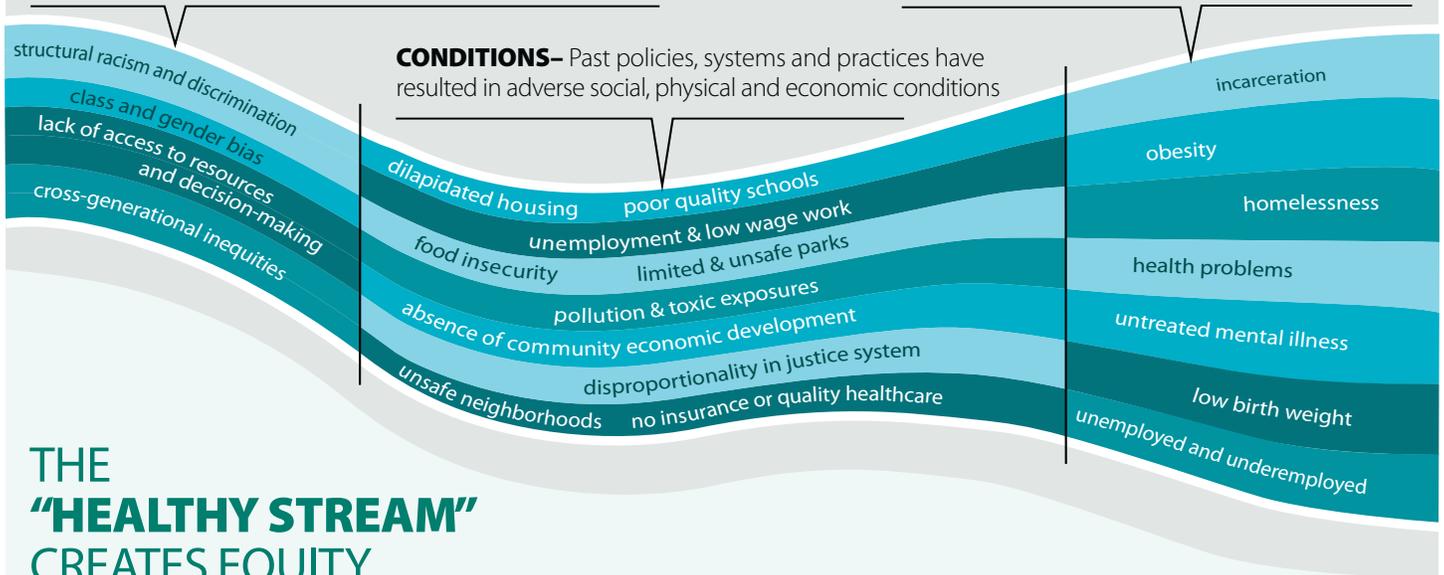
## RACE AND PLACE MATTER IN KING COUNTY.

People of color, low-income residents and immigrants and refugees persistently face inequities in key areas, such as education, income and health.

### THE “UNHEALTHY STREAM” CREATES INEQUITIES

**POLICIES, PRACTICES & SYSTEMS**– Policies, structures and systems – including those in government – have sustained and even contributed to inequities

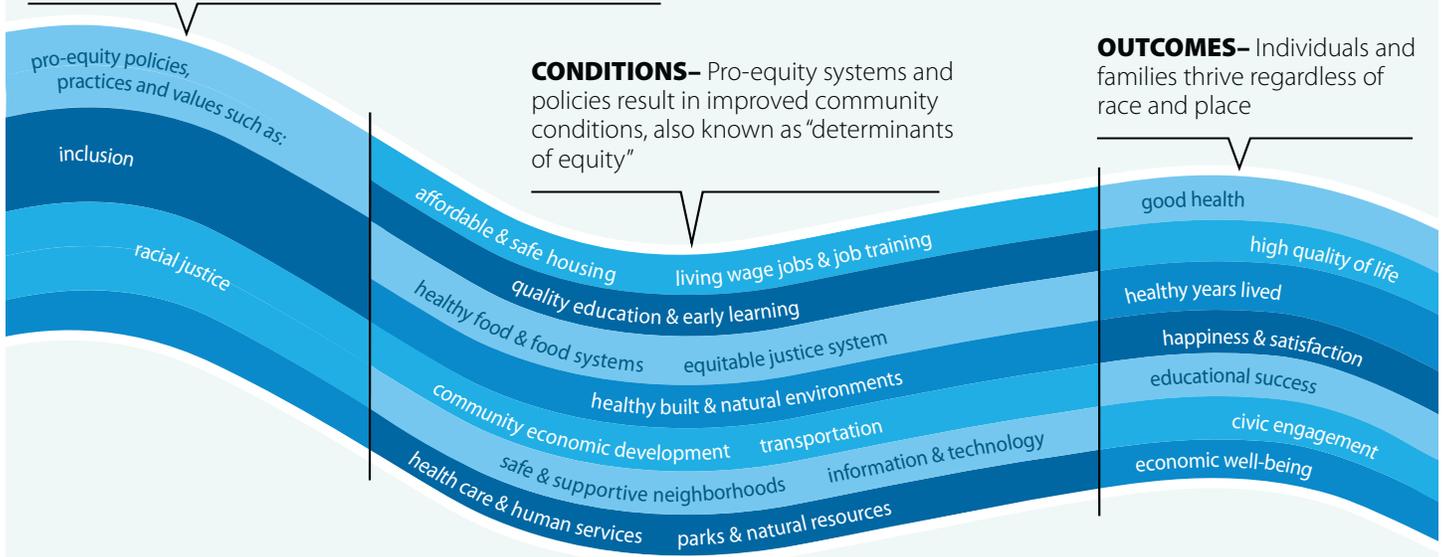
**OUTCOMES**– Organizations and their programs historically have tended to react to problems and treat poor individual and family-level outcomes



### THE “HEALTHY STREAM” CREATES EQUITY

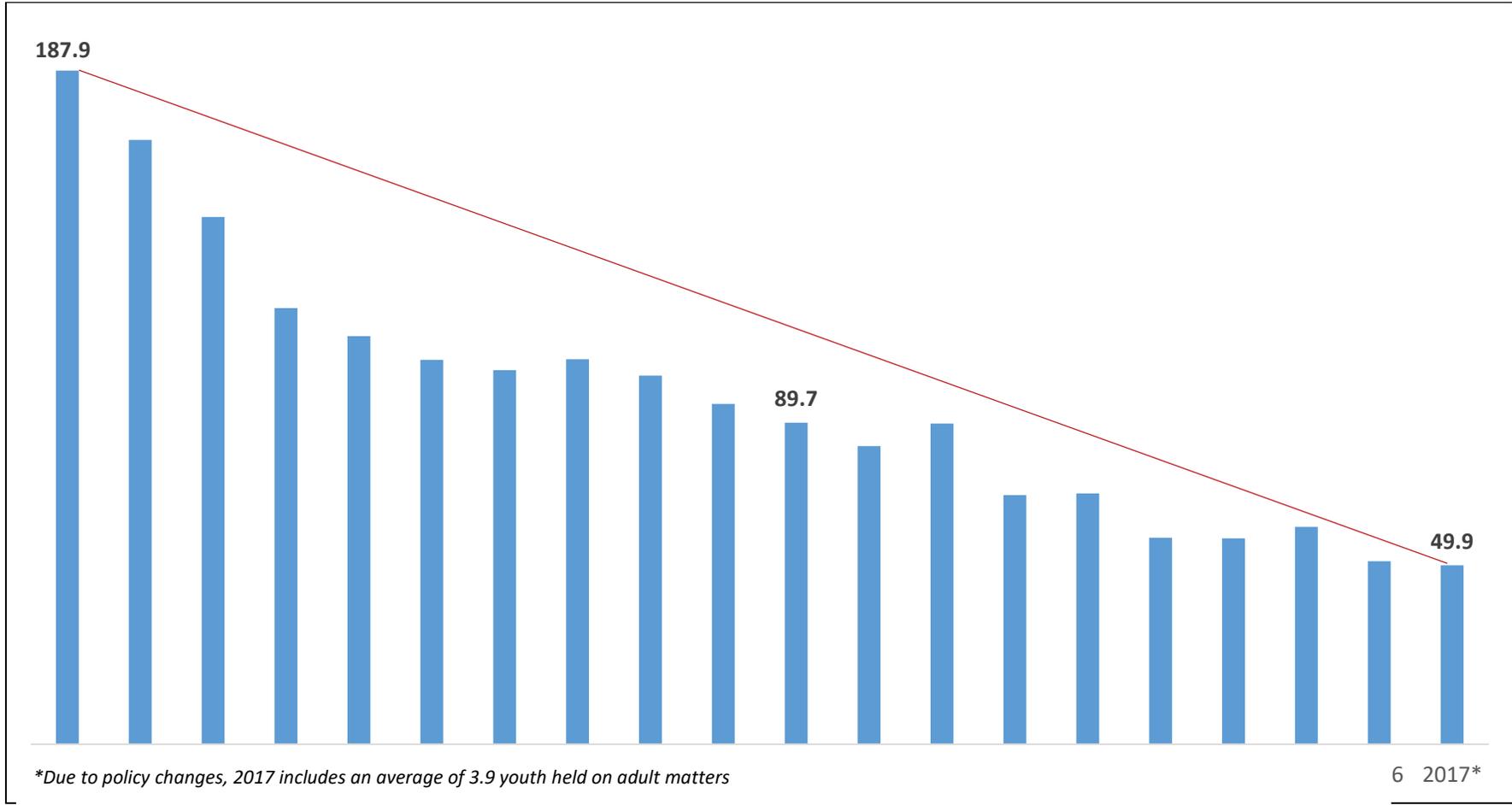
**PRO-EQUITY POLICIES, PRACTICES & SYSTEMS**– For greatest and most effective impact, King County is **focusing “upstream” to address root causes and be pro-equity**

**OUTCOMES**– Individuals and families thrive regardless of race and place



## Appendix H

Average Number of Youth in Secure Detention per day: 1998 – 2017\*



## Appendix I

**Summary of Actions taken by the Executive, Court, and Prosecutor to Reduce the Use of Detention**

***Superior Court*** compiled a [Juvenile Court Services Community Report](#) that shares the Court’s initiatives to reduce the use of secure detention and its actions to address racial disproportionality. In addition, the following Court related activities are underway.

***Screen and Release:*** A newly implemented strategy allowing youth presented to secure detention to be released immediately. Juvenile judges are on-call and able to review cases and release youth outside of court hours.

***2-tier Warrant Expansion:*** Reducing the number of warrants that lead to youth detention by enhancing law enforcement’s ability to provide a new court date and release the youth in the field.

***Juvenile Court-wide Trainings on Implicit Bias and Institutional Racism:*** Court staff participate in dialogue and trainings provided by national leaders on understanding privilege, implicit bias, and institutional racism and how this impacts youth and families, and communities.

***Mentorship:*** Juvenile Court Services contracts with community organizations to provide high quality mentorship services, building healthy non-parental adult relationships with youth, offering guidance and encouragement, and helping to cultivate a young person’s development in a positive and healthy context.

***Partnership for Youth Justice:*** Juvenile Court supports 14 community boards, located throughout the community, to administer the diversion process for youth charged with misdemeanors such as shoplifting and minor in possession.

***The Prosecutor’s Office*** works closely with its King County justice partners and community to launch or expand programs that keep youth out of the justice system. A snapshot of the work of the PAO is below:

***Community Empowered Disposition Alternative and Resolution (CEDAR):*** The CEDAR pilot was launched in May with support from the Executive and communities. CEDAR is an “expedited” track for certain first-time juvenile felony youth that would allow for early acceptance of responsibility and provide positive incentive to engage in community resources and support. It is a collaborative process involving juvenile justice stakeholders to achieve improved outcomes for youth and communities, while seeking to lower rates of racial disproportionality and reduce use of detention.

***Choose 180:*** Operated in partnership with a community agency, this is a pre-filing juvenile diversion program that connects youth with community, teaching them the skills necessary to avoid engagement with the criminal justice system.

***Family Intervention Restorative Services (FIRS):*** An alternative response to family violence where youth are diverted from secure detention and the formal court process, and are immediately offered services.

## Appendix I Road Map to Zero Youth Detention

**The Executive**, through the Departments of Public Health (PH), Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD), and Community and Human Services (DCHS) has launched or expanded a number of activities. Major efforts are outlined below with supporting documents attached.

Transferred youth charged as adults into the Youth Services Center: As of December 2017, all youth charged as adults are housed at the Youth Services Center.

Public health approach to juvenile secure detention: The Executive signed an Executive Order in November 2017 calling for a new direction for juvenile detention using a public health approach. In April 2018, it was announced that all programming within Juvenile Detention will be placed under the care of Public Health.

A public health approach is a way to change a whole system to achieve better outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities. It is resilience-based, building on the strengths of families and communities. Applied to juvenile detention, a public health approach focuses on the well-being of youth, families, and communities to drive changes to services, systems, and root causes.

Workforce Development: Foundational to a public health approach in juvenile detention is a focus on workforce development, including training detention staff on science based adolescent brain development and providing trauma informed services. DAJD's annual training plan includes training on trauma, adolescent development, crisis intervention and de-escalation. Juvenile detention staff are receiving enhanced training on understanding the roots of adolescent behavior based on brain science and evolving principles of adolescent development and understanding the adolescent brain. Plans are underway to digitize these trainings and make them available to all county employees and providers who serve youth and families. Trainings are being developed in collaboration with King County's Child Psychiatrist.

Detention staff are being trained in Peacemaking Circles Keeper's Training. The Juvenile Division is incorporating peacemaking circles throughout the organization as a way to build an inclusive work environment for staff. All staff are being trained in restorative mediation to better assist youth in problem-solving. Trainings on interpersonal communication and direct supervision are also being provided so that staff can expand and strengthen interpersonal skills which are fundamental to building rapport with youth.

Revising the behavior management system: Driven by a growing understanding of adolescent brain science and alignment with trauma responsive principles, DAJD convened a multidisciplinary team of detention staff and mental health professionals to build a new behavior management system for detained youth. The focus of this work has been on reducing the risk of trauma reactions along with reducing the use of solitary confinement, while supporting positive interactions with youth. Use of an incentive system and the development and application of restorative practices are key components to the new behavior management system being implemented starting in summer 2018. The new behavior management system incorporates as many of the recommendations that capacity and security

requirements allow. It is guided by the latest research and evidence in adolescent brain science and trauma responsive care.

*Children’s Crisis Outreach & Response Service (CCORS) Expansion – Safe Spaces:* The Safe Spaces initiative is a coordinated approach to supporting homeless youth who are at risk for involvement in the justice system launched in February 2018. The program serves youth under the age of 18 who are currently involved, or at risk of being involved, with the justice system as a result of low level offenses or transgressions. In the event of law enforcement contact, or potential contact, the YMCA will send a parent peer specialist to work with the family, and a youth peer to work with the youth and connect them to resources. In collaboration, NEXUS Youth and Families Services has successfully launched a 24/7 shelter facility that provide 24-hour supervision to offer short-term crisis stabilization beds for youth that are engaged by law enforcement. The YMCA also send their staff to conduct peer support and crisis service at this location.

*Additional actions taken by the Executive, Court, or Prosecutor to reduce the use of secure detention:*

- **Implementing enhanced electronic home monitoring technology** and collaboration working with the Court to support youth with more complex needs ability to participate on electronic home monitoring.
- **Implemented revised solitary confinement protocols**
- **Revising behavioral health services contract to better serve youth** in secure detention, ensuring that youth are connected with services, that services provided are trauma informed, and individualized care plans are developed in collaboration with detention center staff.
- **Supporting revisions to state law that would enable evidence based behavioral health services** to be provided prior to contact with the justice system. While the legislation did not pass, the County will again support this effort in the upcoming legislative session along with other bills that will reduce the use of secure detention for youth and reduce racial disproportionality.
- **Establishing peacemaking as a restorative justice practice for youth** referred to the justice system for serious offenses. Peacemaking incorporates victim advocates, mentors, family members and community leaders through transformative mediation to strengthen relationships, build community, and facilitate innovative problem-solving.
- **Creating opportunities for young people who face systemic barriers to success** by investing \$2.3 million of Best Start for Kids funding to eleven community organizations serving youth and families. These organizations are providing culturally appropriate services and supports in communities. See Appendix I.
- **Revising the Detention Risk Assessment (DRAI)** to limit the list of eligible offenses for admission into detention to those that pose a significant risk to community safety.

## Appendix J

**Zero Youth Detention Interbranch Team**

<b>Department/Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
King County Sheriff's Office	Jesse Anderson
King County Superior Court	Lea Ennis
King County Superior Court	Jorene Reiber
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office	Jimmy Hung
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office	Leesa Manion
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office	Stephan Thomas
Public Health-Seattle and King County	Rhonda Berry
Public Health-Seattle and King County	Michael Gedeon
Public Health-Seattle and King County	Regina Jones
Public Health-Seattle and King County	Claudia Pineda Reyes
Public Health-Seattle and King County	Sarah Wilhelm
King County Department of Community and Human Services	Dr. Margaret Cary
King County Department of Community and Human Services	Sheila Capestany
King County Department of Community and Human Services	Zac Davis
King County Department of Community and Human Services	Denise Rothleutner
King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention	Pam Jones
King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention	Angela Toussaint
King County Department of Public Defense	Anita Khandelwal
King County Facilities Management Division	Cristina Gonzalez
King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget	Kapena Pflum
King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget	Elly Slakie
King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget	Marcus Stubblefield
King County Executive Office	Kelli Carroll
King County Executive Office	Celia Jackson
King County Executive Office	Natasha Jones
King County Executive Office	Matias Valenzuela
King County Council Staff	Patrick Hamacher

## Appendix K

### Zero Youth Detention Guiding Principles

---

The following Zero Youth Detention (ZYD) guiding principles were developed by the ZYD Interbranch Team (IBT). The guiding principles served as criteria for the IBT to inform the development of the objectives, strategies, and action items contained in the Road Map. The values that drive these guiding principles are a commitment to healthy and thriving outcomes for youth and their families; understanding that the issue of Zero Youth Detention is multi-faceted work that requires King County partnering with many stakeholders in order to achieve the outcomes, cultivating communities where residents are safe and free from systemic oppression/marginalization, and continue building on successes.

#### ZYD Guiding Principle Descriptions<sup>1</sup>

1. **Make racially just and equitable decisions that relate to and/or address the root causes of racial inequity in the juvenile legal system.** Identify and understand how systems of power, obstacles, privilege, and racial injustice negatively impact opportunities and abilities to make fair decisions. This principle encourages the removal or revision of policies and practices that perpetuate structural racism, inequities, different forms of discrimination based on power, privilege, and prevent impacted youth and their families from accessing necessary services.
2. **Honor and celebrate the cultural identities of most impacted youth and families.** King County is committed to promoting and investing in culturally reflective and responsive supports that build on the strengths and experiences of youth, families, and community members. The greater purpose is to increase positive cultural identity, self-worth, and leadership skills.
3. **Prioritize voices and needs of youth and families.** Impacted communities have meaningful access to inclusive decision making processes as early as possible.
  - a. Partner with the most impacted youth and families on design and implementation to inform the County's programming, service delivery, budgeting, and provide equitable opportunities to advocate on their own behalf and influence decisions that impact their lives.
  - b. Facilitate relationships and partnerships between the County and community members that will help further develop school-to-life success pathways.
4. **Support those who provide services.** Recognizing that King County employees and community partners drive services for youth and families, this principle calls for cultivating opportunities to further their wellbeing which may include trainings, technical assistance, and consultation, and equitable wages/benefits.
5. **Accountable and transparent to communities and policymakers.** Consistently reporting on data and outcomes promotes accountability and trust, ensuring plans, policies, and services incorporate values that equitably addresses the needs of youth and families most affected.

*NOTE: As the Road Map is a work in progress, these guiding principles may evolve over time as the County's understanding of and drive towards Zero Youth Detention evolve and as community and employee feedback is incorporated.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The King County Equity and Justice Strategic Plan and KnowledgeWorks Foundation: 10 Principles of Authentic Community Engagement (2005) documents were utilized in this document.

## Appendix L

**KING  
COUNTY  
JUVENILE  
COURT  
SERVICES**

WASHINGTON STATE

WE ENVISION KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT SERVICES AS A SYSTEM THAT COLLABORATES WITH OUR COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS TO PROVIDE UP-FRONT, THERAPEUTIC, AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SERVICES TO ALL YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY	2
RACE, EQUITY, + ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONALITY	5
INITIATIVES	6
RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS	8
DIVERSION	12
DRUG COURT + JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM (JJAT)	14
JUVENILE PROBATION	15
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS	16
DETENTION SERVICES	19
FINAL THANKS	20

# A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

King County Juvenile Court Services is committed to responding to the needs of youth and families in a manner that is trauma informed, research based, and culturally relevant.

**Our organization strives to respond to the unique needs of every youth and family, while providing opportunities to engage in pro-social activities that foster hope and remove barriers to long-term success.**

A constant driver of our work is the commitment to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Policy changes and new programs are approached from the lens of how to equitably serve all members of our community, and remove institutional barriers that contribute to disproportionate system involvement for youth of color. There is no one answer to solving disproportionality, but we believe that collaboration across systems, and with community partners, is necessary to improve outcomes for our youth.

Involvement with the juvenile court is an event that is not wished upon any youth or family, but in the event of a referral to the court, this is an opportunity to provide interventions and supportive programming, with the goal of eliminating any future system involvement. Juvenile Court Services staff, volunteers, and community and system partners work together to provide an appropriate response for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. We are committed to approaching our work through a restorative lens, uplifting young people, their families, and community through positive programs and services.

JUDGE J. WESLEY SAINT CLAIR  
Chief Juvenile Court Judge



LEA ENNIS  
Director of Juvenile Court Services





# RACE, EQUITY + ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONALITY

King County Juvenile Court Services considers eliminating disproportionality and improving equitable access to services as the foundation to juvenile justice reform efforts.

The court and its partners have engaged in collaborative, multi-faceted strategies including: policy changes, staff trainings on implicit bias and privilege, review of culturally responsive services, and the development of sustainable court and community partnerships. Juvenile Court Services envisions a process where youth and families who are referred to the court are immediately connected to community-based programs and networks of support.

In an effort to reduce disproportionality within the juvenile justice system, the following policies and practices were adopted or expanded in 2016:

- + Continually reviewing and reducing the number of warrants that result in secure detention. The Juvenile Court has enhanced law enforcement's ability to provide a new court date and release the youth in the field.
- + Adhering to a strict list of criteria for a youth to be presented to secure detention. Eligible offenses are limited to those that pose a significant risk to community safety.
- + Instituting a new policy, Juvenile Court allows a youth brought to secure detention to be immediately released. Juvenile Court judges are on call and can remotely review cases and release eligible youth outside of traditional court hours.

# INITIATIVES

King County Juvenile Court Services engages in partnership with local, state, and national level experts in the field of juvenile justice in an effort to adopt best practices and innovative programming.

## Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a national reform movement spearheaded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.\* King County Juvenile Court has been a formal JDAI site since 2004, yet began to adopt the JDAI reform framework in the late 1990s. JDAI's vision is for all youth involved in the juvenile justice system to have opportunities to develop into healthy productive adults. As a result of JDAI and other programs and initiatives, King County has experienced a consistent decline in the use of secure detention for juveniles. *GRAPHIC 1*

\*[www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/jdai/](http://www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/jdai/)

JDAI is rooted in the following 8 Core Strategies:

- + Prioritize Reducing Racial + Ethnic Disparities
- + Improve Conditions of Confinement
- + Community-Based Alternative Programs
- + Objective Detention Admission Criteria
- + Data-Driven Policies
- + Increasing Collaboration
- + Expediting Case Processing
- + Probation Violation + Warrant Options.

## eQuality

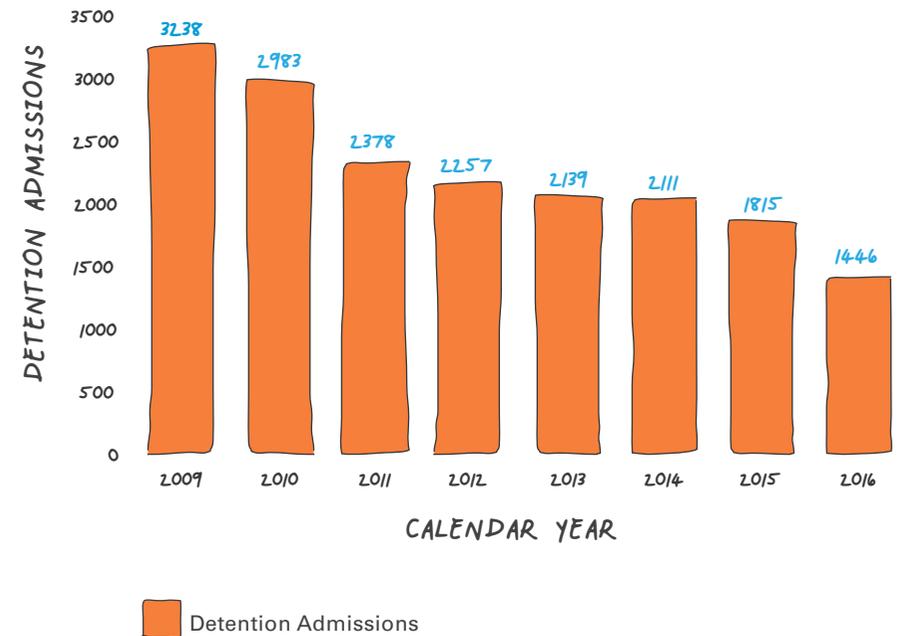
In partnership with Center for Children and Youth Justice, King County Juvenile Court Services has implemented the protocol for safe and affirming care (eQuality). The eQuality project seeks to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in Washington State's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in these systems, experience unique forms of trauma, and have specific needs related to their sexual orientation and gender identity. It builds the framework for providing safe and more affirming care to LGBTQ+ youth who are system involved.

## Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEC)

King County no longer charges youth with prostitution. As a result of extensive outreach, education, and training, youth who were previously charged with prostitution are seen as survivors/victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The court supports a coordinated effort to align stakeholders in support of youth who are at risk for sexual exploitation, or are victims of trafficking. *GRAPHIC 2*

GRAPHIC 1

## REDUCTION IN THE USE OF SECURE DETENTION



GRAPHIC 2

## MINORS CHARGED WITH PROSTITUTION VERSUS MEN TRYING TO BUY SEX FROM MINORS



\*Data provided by Val Richey, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

# RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS

Restorative principles are a set of values that guide practices for how we respond to behavior. Restorative principles embrace the need to repair harm and rebuild relationships in the community. Restorative justice calls upon the support and engagement of the community and involves crime victims with the goal of strengthening bonds among community members and preventing future juvenile justice system involvement. Restorative justice embraces a healing process, rather than punishment.



*"TO ME, RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS ARE BASED ON A PHILOSOPHY THAT SEES 'WRONGS' COMMITTED IN THE COMMUNITY AS OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD BE TRANSFORMATIVE FOR ITS PARTICIPANTS. IT CHALLENGES US TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT PROBLEMS, PEOPLE, AND CRIMES."*

Restorative Program Social Worker

## Family Intervention + Restorative Services (FIRS)

The Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) program is an intervention offered to youth and families experiencing youth enacted family violence. The FIRS program offers two components; the FIRS Respite Center and FIRS Agreements.

FIRS is the result of a successful partnership between the King County Prosecuting Attorney's office, Superior Court, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, the Department of Judicial Administration, the Department of Public Defense, and the City of Seattle.

- + The FIRS Respite Center, staffed by Pioneer Human Services, opened its doors on July 1st, 2016. Within the first 6 months of operation, 87 youth were successfully diverted from secure detention and offered placement in the respite center.
- + FIRS Agreements are a pre-diversion practice, offered as an alternative to the traditional court process and will not result in a court case or criminal record for the youth. The FIRS team provides immediate intervention through assessing family safety and service needs, facilitates safety planning and restorative process, and engages youth in the development of an agreement to participate in needed services. In 2016, 150 FIRS Agreements were signed.

## Step-Up

Step-Up is a nationally recognized adolescent family violence intervention program designed to address youth violence toward family members. Step-Up believes respect is at the heart of all healthy family relationships. Step-Up offers a skills based and restorative practice group intervention for youth and their parents/caretakers. This 20-week intervention includes a youth group, parent group, and multi-family group with youth and parents together. The court employs a team of four social workers who provide this service in the community. In 2016, more than 72 families engaged in services through the Step-Up program.

## Peacemaking

King County is pioneering peacemaking as a restorative justice response to youth referred to the court for serious offenses. Peacemaking is a method of bringing people together to strengthen relationships, build community, and facilitate innovative problem-solving.



"I WOULD LIKE ALL OF YOU TO KNOW THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU GUYS OR THE CHANCE YOU ALL HAVE GIVEN ME TO CHANGE MY LIFE AROUND AND KEEP MY RECORD SOMEWHAT CLEAN. THE EXPERIENCE I HAVE HAD HERE HAS HELPED ME REALIZE THAT WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING MY WHOLE LIFE IS TRULY NOT RIGHT, AND THAT THE FEW SHORT DAYS I WAS HERE WERE BEARABLE DUE TO THE NICE WORKERS. I JUST HOPE ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE HELPED CHANGE MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER."

Letter from youth following  
a stay in the FIRS Respite Center

# DIVERSION

Diversion directs youth away from the traditional case-processing model and instead refers youth to a restorative justice program or services. Diversion is a non-court processing model for low-level offenses. Successfully completing a diversion program keeps youth from having a criminal record.

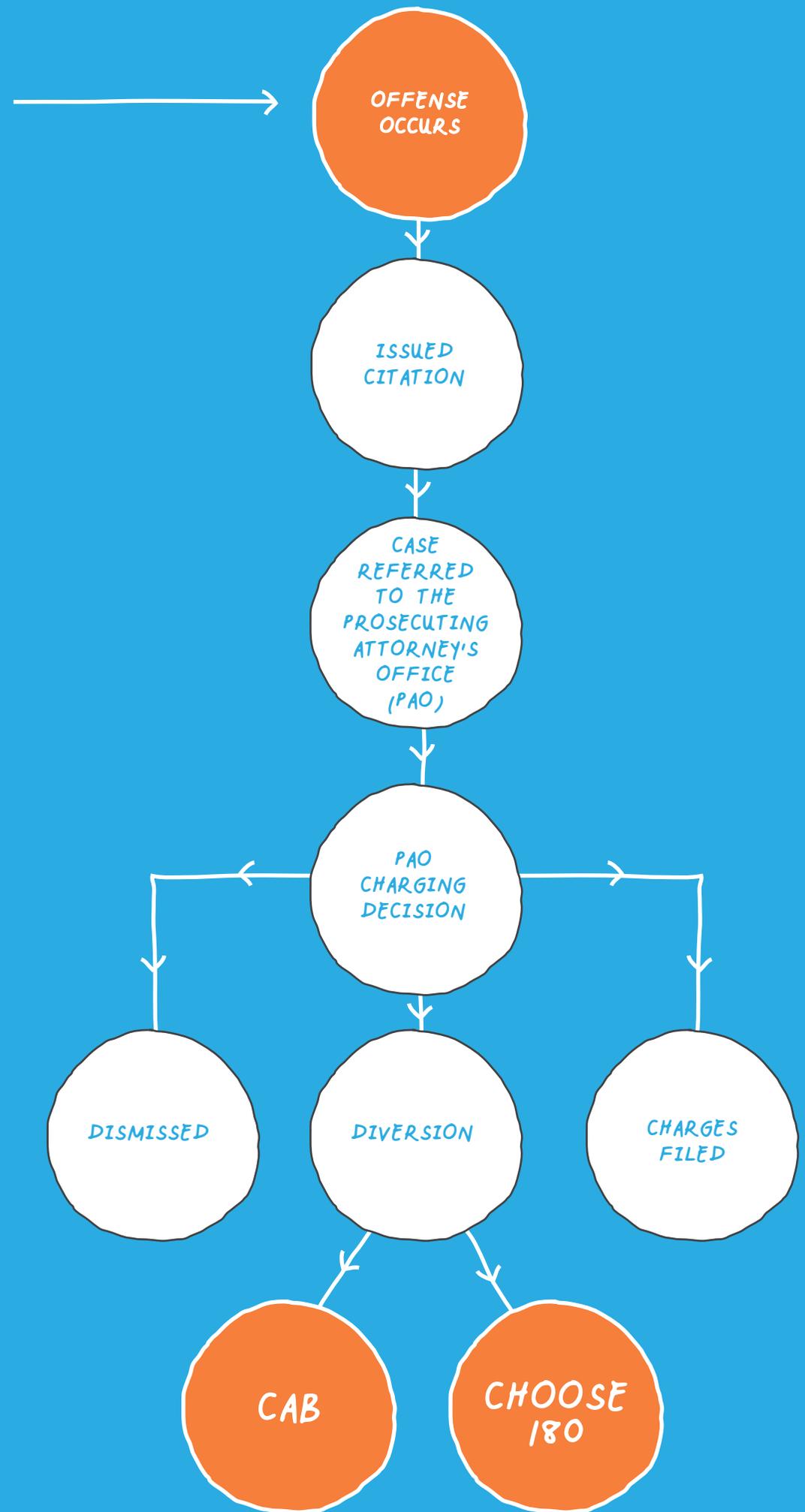
## Community Accountability Boards (CAB)

King County operates 13 volunteer-led Community Accountability Boards (CAB). CABs interview youth and their caretakers in order to create an individualized diversion agreement. The objectives of the CAB and diversion agreement are to: provide accountability for the youth's behavior through effectively communicating the correlation between the crimes committed and individuals harmed by those actions; identify and help resolve issues that may be inhibiting the young person from achieving their potential; and connect youth to their community through local resources.

## Choose 180

Choose 180 is a partnership between the prosecutor and a community-based agency. Youth who attend Choose 180 hear from volunteer speakers who have faced some of the same issues and struggles youth are experiencing, and who had made their own "180" change in direction. In 2016, Choose 180 was attended by more than 300 youth.

FROM OFFENSE TO DIVERSION PROGRAMS: CAB + CHOOSE 180



# DRUG COURT + JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM (JJAT)

Juvenile Court Services focuses on providing supports and programs informed by the therapeutic needs of our clients.

## Juvenile Drug Court (JDC)

The Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) allows youth charged with an offense who have an alcohol or drug problem to participate in a 7 to 18 month program that includes early, continuous and intensive court-monitored treatment. The JDC program works closely with the JJAT team in an effort to ensure a therapeutic response is provided for all cases through comprehensive assessment tools and weekly case staffing. If a juvenile successfully completes the Drug Court program, their charges are dismissed.

## Juvenile Justice Assessment Team (JJAT)

The Juvenile Justice Assessment Team (JJAT) is comprised of therapeutic staff including a psychologist, mental health, and chemical dependency staff who are responsible for providing assessments, consultation, and therapeutic interventions. The JJAT is instrumental in developing and guiding a therapeutic treatment plan for justice involved youth.

*"THEY HAD SO MUCH HOPE IN ME, MORE THAN I HAD IN MYSELF, AND KEPT PUSHING ME IN THAT DIRECTION. I'M SIXTEEN MONTHS CLEAN AND LIFE IS GREAT. HONESTLY, I FEEL LIKE A PRODUCTIVE PART OF SOCIETY. I'M INDEPENDENTLY LIVING ON MY OWN. IT FEELS GOOD TO LIVE LIFE THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LIVED."*

Drug Court Graduate

# JUVENILE PROBATION

King County offers the following Evidence-Based Programs through Juvenile Court Services at no cost to the youth or family. In 2016, more than 250 youth were served through these programs

When a youth is placed on supervised probation by the juvenile court, a Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC) is assigned to the youth based on their geographic living area. The JPC completes a full risk needs assessment and refers the youth and family to appropriate services which may include family, individual, mental health, or substance abuse counseling. The JPC coordinates with school staff, counseling staff, and other agencies and community resources in guiding the youth and family in meeting their needs.

## Education + Employment Training (EET)

A comprehensive work training experience for justice involved youth. Participants receive case management, job readiness training, and job placement in community-based subsidized positions.

## Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

Therapy designed to give parents the support and empowerment they need to provide a positive environment and access the community services necessary to achieve long term success for their youth.

## Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

A family intervention therapy with sessions offered in the home, focused upon teaching communication and problem-solving skills.

## Parent Youth Connections Seminar (PYCS)

An interactive seminar for youth and their parents or guardians that focuses upon skill building and making connections within the family and community. The program is designed to: increase positive relationships between caregivers and children, and increase a family's knowledge of, and connection to, community resources.

## Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

A class that teaches participants to replace negative behavior with positive skills, anger control, and moral reasoning.

## Family Integrated Transitions (FIT)

Intensive family and community-based treatment intervention addressing mental health and substance abuse disorders.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

King County Juvenile Court Services works in partnership with non-profit organizations and community members to connect youth and families to a network of supportive events, interventions, and mentors.

## Mentoring through the Credible Messenger Initiative

The King County Credible Messenger Initiative was developed through training and technical assistance from Community Connections for Youth in New York City and the Dept. of Youth Rehabilitative Services in Washington, D.C. It represents one component of King County's new approach to mentorship for our youth. Credible Messengers serve young people whose needs go far beyond the traditional mentoring approach of companionship, confidence-building and typical academic, social or career guidance. The King County Credible Messenger Initiative stems from a core belief that individuals from the same communities, with the same lived experience as those that they serve, are uniquely positioned to engage young people and family members often considered hardest to reach.

Believing that the answer is in our communities, the Credible Messenger Initiative seeks to practice true restorative justice by investing directly in

growing the human resources in our communities where the majority of our young people reside.

Credible Messenger mentors are not volunteers. They are paid professionals who receive training to enhance their professional development. Through mentoring, Credible Messengers experience a deepening of their own commitment to transformation and growth, personally and professionally. The Credible Messengers receive training on multiple relevant topics, including Facilitation, Positive Youth Development, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Restorative Practices.

## Youth Leadership, Intervention, and Change (Youth LINC)

King County Juvenile Court supports the efforts of Youth Leadership, Intervention and Change (Youth LINC), a program that strengthens agency coordination to reduce gang involvement, and connects gang or group involved youth to a network of support. A multidisciplinary team, facilitated by the Center for Children + Youth Justice (CCYJ) helps ensure that all agencies working with a shared client have common goals and strategies to support the youth. The multi-disciplinary team includes: school/education staff, outreach workers, social service providers, probation counselors, law enforcement, and job training/education service providers.

## Federal Way Youth Action Team (FWYAT)

The FWYAT is a collaboration of community members and organizations that provide youth and families with pro-social programming, development opportunities, and connection to services. Currently, the FWYAT supports three programs that serve youth who are at risk of involvement with the justice system.

- + Helping Youth Achieve Excellence (HYPE) is a weekend program that reconnects youth to opportunity through developing relationships with positive adults from their community and pro-social skill building workshops.
- + Game of Life (GOL) is a program that operates two nights per week and is designed to engage young men through basketball. Through a "Health and Wellness" framework, GOL aims to develop deeper relationships with young men while assessing their needs and connecting them to services and supports. GOL is facilitated by community leaders and professionals who have valuable, relative life experience to the young men attending GOL.
- + The Positive Outcomes Program (POP) provides advocacy and mentorship to youth who are often underserved and at risk for interaction with the juvenile justice system.



# DETENTION SERVICES

Detention services has embraced a trauma informed approach to care. Recent efforts have been focused on the redeployment of staffing resources, revamping of hiring practices, investing in staff training, and creating robust programs and services that adhere to a long term vision of being trauma informed.

## Volunteer + Community Organizations

- Yoga Behind Bars
- Pongo Poetry
- Creative Writing
- Powerful Voices
- Jet City Improv
- Spoken Word/Slam Poetry
- Movie nights
- IF Project
- KUOW RadioActive Audio Storytelling
- Northwest Black Pioneers Exhibit
- AA Meetings
- Visual art classes
- Basketball clinics and camps
- U-Power
- Planter Box Gardening Program
- Young Men’s Peacemaking Circle Program
- Sweat, Pain, and Gain—Physical Education Program

## On-Site Services

- Interagency School, Seattle Public Schools
- King County Library
- Mental Health Services provided by University of Washington Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- Health Services provided by University of Washington School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics
- Chaplaincy Programming and Mentoring

*“PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED TO YOUTH SEEK TO EMBRACE RESTORATIVE PRINCIPLES, AND INCORPORATE BEST PRACTICES THAT ARE IN ALIGNMENT WITH SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS IN ADOLESCENT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT”*

*Pam Jones, Juvenile Division Director, Adult + Juvenile Detention*



# FINAL THANKS

We would like to acknowledge the dedication of our community partners who continually strive to improve the lives of youth and families.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	Glover Empowerment Mentoring (GEM)
Annie E. Casey Foundation	Helping Youth Perform Excellence (HYPE)
Atlantic Street Center	Institute for Family Development
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Division	Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee (JJESC)
Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ)	Kent Youth and Family Services
Certified Sex Offender Treatment Providers (CSOTP)	King County ADR (Mediation)
Children's Administration	King County Department of Adult + Juvenile Detention (KC DAJD)
Choose 180	King County Department of Public Defense (KC DPD)
Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Archdiocese of Greater Seattle	King County EER (Education, Employment, Resources)
City of Seattle	King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KC PAO)
Community Passageways	King County Sexual Resource Center
Community Psychiatric Clinic	Multi-Service Center
Creative Justice	Pioneer Human Services
DSHS Division of Behavioral Health + Recovery (DBHR)	Pointe One North Consulting
DSHS Rehabilitation Administration	Positive Outcome Program (POP)
Federal Way Youth Action Team (FWYAT)	Ryther
Game of Life (GOL)	School Districts across King County

Seneca Family of Agencies  
Team Child  
Therapeutic Health Services  
Uniting for Youth (UfY)  
University of Washington (UW)  
Urban Art Works

Washington Department of Social + Health Services (DSHS)  
Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice  
YMCA of King County  
YouthCare



**KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT SERVICES**  
**1211 East Alder St. Seattle, WA 98122**  
**[kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/juvenile](http://kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/juvenile)**  
**(206) 205-9426**

*Created: Winter 2018*

## Appendix M

# TRAUMA-INFORMED GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## *Building resilience at all levels of Public Health - Seattle & King County*



### TRAUMA UNDERSTANDING

Trauma and toxic stress negatively impact the health of individuals, communities, and systems. This includes intergenerational trauma, racism and oppression, and direct and vicarious trauma. When we build our collective knowledge about trauma and its impact, we can promote healing and resilience in ourselves and our communities.



### SAFETY

Feeling safe decreases a person's sense of threat and allows them to thrive. We promote safety by establishing physically and emotionally safe environments where basic needs are met and interactions are consistent.



### CULTURAL HUMILITY & RESPONSIVENESS

We come from diverse social and cultural groups that may experience and react to trauma differently. We approach one another with curiosity, and we strive to ensure that all people can share their full humanity by supporting their control, choices, and autonomy.



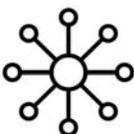
### ANTI-RACISM & OPPRESSION

We acknowledge that individual and systemic racism and oppression inflict trauma on individuals, generations, communities, and systems. We recognize our relationships to privilege and power and how they interact with trauma. We take action to confront individual and systemic racism, and we promote anti-racism by valuing the unique strengths and resilience in people who experience historical and current trauma.



### COMPASSIONATE RELATIONSHIPS

Safe, authentic and positive relationships are restorative to people and systems who have experienced trauma. We foster compassionate and dependable relationships by establish trusting connections with others that foster mutual wellness.



### COLLABORATION & EMPOWERMENT

Trauma involves a loss of power and control that can make us feel helpless. We strive towards transparent decision-making and shared power across all levels of the organization to promote healing through empowerment and trust.



### RESILIENCE & HEALING

All people have strengths and capacity for resilience to counteract the impact of direct and vicarious trauma. We support ourselves and others in building on their strengths and resilience by teaching and supporting reflective practices and self-care.

# OUR VISION

is to create a public health department whose employees, programs, services and systems build resilience and support healing at all levels.

Trauma and toxic stress negatively impact the health of communities. Public Health promotes resilience and protective factors to reduce the negative impacts of trauma on our community's health. Our goal is to promote integration of core concepts of trauma-informed practice by creating a shared culture and common language, beginning with our own staff.

## HOW WE ARE BUILDING AN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT PROMOTES HEALING & RESILIENCE



## PACKING LIST

- ✓ King County Equity & Social Justice Work
- ✓ Research and learning on toxic stress, trauma & resilience

Learn more about trauma-informed systems.

Contact:

[carina.elsenboss@kingcounty.gov](mailto:carina.elsenboss@kingcounty.gov) or  
[sarah.wilhelm@kingcounty.gov](mailto:sarah.wilhelm@kingcounty.gov)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What do we mean by an organization or system that is trauma-informed?**

We are working to be an organization that understands the widespread impact intergenerational trauma, racism and oppression, and direct and vicarious traumas have on individuals, communities, organizations and systems and understands potential paths for recovery and healing. Key aspects include: 1) recognizing the signs of trauma in communities; 2) integrating knowledge of trauma into policies and practices; 3) actively promoting healing and preventing re-traumatization among staff, communities and systems.

### **How is Public Health currently applying a trauma-informed approach?**

- An assessment of our programs and services highlighted several examples:
- The Child Death Review committee members receive training and support as they do their work to understand the data behind children's deaths in our County.
- The Community Health Services Division provides training to staff to increase awareness of the potential role trauma plays in the lives of clients.
- The Assessment, Policy Development and Evaluation Unit measures protective factors and collects data on community strengths in addition to disease and adversity.
- Human Resources has developed ways to approach lay-offs with a trauma-informed lens.

### **I don't work with clients. How does this work apply to me?**

Developing an organizational culture that understands the impact of trauma and works to support resilience and healing has the potential to impact everyone in our health department. We spend a lot of our time in the workplace so this culture change can make a big impact on us as staff, and ultimately on the many ways we interact with the community.

### **How does the County's Equity and Social Justice work connect with trauma-informed practices?**

Our hope is that a trauma-informed approach can integrate with and complement our collective focus on Equity and Social Justice. For example, our Guiding Principles might be used as an additional tool to establish norms that acknowledge the ways power and oppression impact our staff or permeate our systems.

## Appendix N

# PUBLIC HEALTH

# APPROACH TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

## WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH?

A public health approach to juvenile justice means engaging communities and applying a strong evidence base to determine prevention and intervention strategies that eliminate the need for juvenile detention and promote the well-being and development of all youth.



### SCIENCE-BASED

Science about the way adolescent brains develop helps us understand ways we can support youth, particularly those who may have experienced trauma.



### PROGRESS & PARTNERSHIP

The County funds community partnerships that creates opportunities for young people who face systemic barriers to success.



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This approach has already proven effective, but more needs to be done in partnership with community leaders. Success and reaching our goal of zero youth detention will require community engagement and involvement of community organizations, partners, families and youth.



### LEADERSHIP & COMMITMENT

A coalition of twenty diverse county leaders committed to the public health approach has been assembled and includes:

- Public Health – Seattle & King County
- King County Superior Court
- Executive Office
- Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
- Department of Community and Human Services
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Department of Public Defense
- King County Sheriff's Office
- Performance, Strategy and Budget
- Office of Labor Relations

King County has **reduced the number of youth in detention by 70%** since 1998, and most youth are **out of detention in 3-5 days**.

Our most recent steps forward:

**Summer 2018:** Road Map to Zero Youth Detention report will put forth short and long-term strategies to keep kids out of the justice system, better deliver services, and increase support for those transitioning out of the justice system

**Spring 2018:** All programming work within Juvenile Detention will be placed under the care of Public Health.

**November 2017:** Executive order calling for a new direction for juvenile detention using a public health approach

**November 2017:** Executive order moving youth charged as adults from Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent to Youth Services Center

**August 2017:** Deputy Executive Rhonda Berry appointed to lead the County's collective work to lead the County's Zero Youth Detention effort

**July 2015:** The Executive chartered the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering committee

# THE PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH IN PRACTICE

Public Health-informed programming addresses the needs of youth and families before they experience the juvenile justice system, when they interact with our systems and facilities, and when they transition out of the juvenile justice system.

## STRATEGIES FOR ZERO YOUTH DETENTION

King County is already implementing **strategies to reduce the use of detention that are making a difference**. We are pairing upstream solutions that keep kids from interacting with the justice system in the first place with safe, respectful facilities to serve as a resource in our communities for our services. Additionally, our programs, working in conjunction with community partners, deliver supportive services in a nurturing, trauma-informed way.

- **Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)** - offers youth arrested for family violence incidents space at an overnight respite center instead of secure detention
- **Step-Up Program** - specifically addresses adolescent family violence
- **Creative Justice** - an arts-focused alternative to detention
- **The 180 Program** - a diversion program offering youth a chance to have their charges dismissed
- **Restorative Mediation** - helps youth understand the full impact of their actions directly from victims
- **Drug Court** - allowing juveniles charged with an offense who have alcohol or drug problems to participate in a program, including early, continuous and intensive court-monitored treatment

## The new Children and Family Justice Center brings all family law matters under one roof.

As we work toward fewer and fewer youth coming into detention, we want to make sure that those who do are supported by a developmentally appropriate environment that helps them leave as resilient as possible and better connected to what they need to thrive in their community.

### The new facility will feature:

- An environment conducive to delivering trauma-informed services
- Childcare for those attending family court
- 100 fewer beds than existing facility
- Space for courtrooms

## Building for a future of zero youth detention.

As the County continues to drive reductions in the use of secure detention for juveniles, **the detention housing units will be constructed so that they can be easily converted to transition units and community use space.**

## Appendix O

Children and Youth Advisory Board  
Juvenile Justice Ad Hoc Committee

***Initial Recommendations on the Path to Zero Youth Detention***

Final Draft May 3, 2018

**BACKGROUND**

In December 2017 the King County Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) was invited by Executive Dow Constantine to provide input regarding, ‘strategies and recommendations to achieve a path to zero detention’. THE CYAB understands that every component of work of the Best Starts for Kids relates to the individual, family, community and societal factors that culminate in juvenile detention. The CYAB formed an ad hoc committee to respond to the Executive’s request. Recognizing the timeline for other decisions, the Ad Hoc Committee on Juvenile Detention here presents for consideration its *initial* thoughts and recommendations.

This document first presents context-building information which is followed by two groups of recommendations. The first group recommends seven key concepts that we believe should drive conversations related to zero youth detention. Each concept is accompanied by a key ‘Litmus Question’ because we believe that asking the right questions will help to assure that decisions are well informed. This development of litmus questions is similar conceptually to the CYAB’s formation of equity questions, based on our equity statement, which helps us make equity-based assessments. Our committee also suggests that this approach of posing key litmus questions might be applicable to other county-wide decision making.

The second group of five recommendations are specific and address structure, language, alignment and measurement.

The CYAB wholeheartedly supports Executive Constantine’s [vision of zero youth detention](#). The CYAB hopes this combination of decision-making support recommendations and specific recommendations will prove useful. The CYAB will continue to offer a bold rethinking of processes and decisions to fulfill our advisory charge.

**THE CYAB CONTEXT**

Our contribution to the discussion of the path to achieve zero detention is based on our advisory role to the Youth Action Plan and Best Starts for Kids. Our role calls on us to **center on youth and communities** in the process of deliberating important, relevant, county wide decisions. Our perspective also derives from **our equity statement**, which, among other things, calls us to promote both the disruptive and restorative components of equity-focused efforts. An equity focus is especially important in considering issues with a sustained history of racial bias. Our role is informed by a **public health perspective**, which links upstream causes to downstream effects and understands the interconnectedness of multiple sectors in our communities. A public health perspective does not criminalize abhorrent behavior or seek

to remove young people from society based solely on a sense of the need for punishment or out of fear. This public health perspective, based on a social-determinants philosophy, seeks upstream interventions, early life investments, tracks progress to yield objective evidence, and honors every person's potential, regardless of their current position in our society. As we contemplate our role in the youth detention discussion, our voices are grounded in these concepts

Our views and recommendations related to youth detention are also founded on our understanding of the development of brain functions and of the origins of behavior. We believe that policies related to youth must reflect an understanding of child and adolescent development and an awareness that brain development continues at least through the early twenties. Knowledge of development and related disabilities provides the context required to appreciate differences in individual developmental levels and to consider the role of behavioral health services. Behaviors have roots and they have consequences. We can find ways to hold people accountable yet still be restorative in the way we sculpt those consequences.

Our focus on equity and development serves underscore some important facts about current juvenile detention:

- ***Individuals with developmental disabilities are still overrepresented in detention.*** This speaks strongly to a trail of inadequate services and supports and suggests that the choice of detention is inappropriate for too many of them. In addition, zero tolerance policies that lead to automatic suspensions disproportionately hurt children with disabilities.
- ***The vast majority of young people in the justice system do not perpetrate serious crimes.*** Conversations about youth detention should not be framed around the very rare serious offenders.
- ***Discussions about youth detention still have a disproportionate focus on the moment of offense, not the many steps that preceded the offense.*** Strategies to improve youth detention, including the design of new buildings, must reflect an awareness of the upstream roots of the behaviors that led to detention.
- ***Reducing the number of detained youth is trumpeted as success when racial disproportionality of detainees remains.*** Racial injustice at any scale is not an outcome our community can accept.
- ***Criminalizing youth cultivates criminals.*** Any young person has great capacity for growth, restoration and reaching their full potential; therefore, a restorative and behavioral health perspective must be the overriding public health approach.

## **CYAB AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Recommendations Utilizing *LITMUS QUESTIONS* to Inform Decisions:

1. All who make decision about the development and nature of the youth detention system are called upon to **announce and adopt a public health perspective**. This means recognizing they are seeing youth in crisis, not criminals. This means seeking to understand root causes of that crisis. This means having a focus on interrupting any further harm. This means an ultimate goal of restoring wellness.

***Litmus question: Are we furthering our understanding of root causes, are we interrupting harm, and are we helping to place this youth on a pathway to wellness?***

2. Those most affected by the youth detention system—**youth, their families and communities—must continue to be centered in conversations** about this topic. Not just episodically, and not in a way that holds their voices powerless.

***Litmus question: Are those most affected centered in our discussion about this issue?***

3. Anyone who is involved with youth and their caregivers, from early learning instructor to law officer to judge, must have a deep **understanding of both brain and behavior development**. They must be able to recognize behaviors rooted in age appropriate development or developmental delays. This work must take into account an individual's personal developmental level and the connections between mental health, substance abuse, and behavior.

***Litmus question: Is my action duly informed by an understanding of this person's development?***

4. Eliminating **racial disproportionality** must be a driving goal. This does not ignore other forms of oppression, but does recognize how strongly racial bias historically and currently exists at our community's and at our nation's core. We recognize the role that institutions, structures and policies play in perpetuating racial disproportionality. Other discriminatory practices also drive the nature and scope of decisions.

***Litmus question: Will this action specifically help eliminate racial and other biases in practices or outcomes?***

5. Community-wide systems must be rebuilt to deconstruct pipelines to prison and to **construct strong pathways to success**, especially for youth of color. Issues of discipline and punishment at every level of a young person's life must include an awareness of its potential contribution to a negative versus a positive pipeline. This does not negate the concept of consequences, but it does necessitate a supportive component to those consequences.

***Litmus question: Does this decision and the nature of its implementation promote a path to success or to prison?***

6. Systems and policies must be built with a strong awareness that any young person has **enormous capacity for restoration, growth, and achieving their full potential**. From the youngest of children to young adulthood, nurturing their social-emotional and their restorative capacity must be cultivated in the programs we create for them.

***Litmus question: Are we fully recognizing this youth's capacity for growth in making this decision, policy or program?***

7. Policies as well as conversations about youth must be grounded in the fact that the **vast majority of youth are not involved in serious crimes**. It is as harmful to couch conversations in a fear of the rare serious offender as it is to create programs overly focused on these few.

***Litmus question: Are we overly emphasizing the rare serious offender in this discussion or decision?***

### Specific Recommendations:

In addition to the litmus questions above, the CYAB makes these additional specific recommendations regarding structure, language, alignment and measurement.

8. The CYAB calls for assuring that any new facility is fully capable of **completely repurposing its spaces** away from detention. In honoring a goal of zero detention, planning and construction of any facility must occur in such a way that all of its spaces can be effectively transformed for non-detention purposes.
9. The CYAB recommends embracing a public health perspective and **eliminating words like “detention” and “justice”** from the names of centers, departments, policies, programs and buildings.
10. The CYAB urges the creation of systems that **align the knowledge, purpose and goals of the disparate King County programs and personnel that influence youth**. This requires collaborative alignment between educational professionals, community-based groups, police, prosecutors, judges, “detention” staff, family support systems and others. We recognize the different accountabilities built into each of these quarters, but we feel strongly that any solutions that don’t include strategies to build strong alignment and shared goals among these influencers will fall short of success.
11. The CYAB encourages **measurement and assay efforts** that help link foundational components of our society to the issues of youth in crisis. We must analyze the connections between factors like education, transportation, food security, housing, poverty (including generational cycles of poverty), racism and other forms of group oppression, as well as other life stressors, to their effects on youth in crisis who are currently identified as “offenders.” Strengths and opportunities, like bolstering family agency, cultivating support systems and positive experiences, nurturing community connections and building personal responsibility, must also be part of this kind of analysis. Intentional investments in using data and wisdom to inform our understanding of youth in crisis and their contextual setting is a prerequisite to making better investments.
12. A core strategy to reach the goal of zero detention must include a strong, statewide children and youth behavioral health safety net. The CYAB encourages our local communities to work with the State of Washington to overhaul policies essential to our safety net and align with our equity goals for children, youth and young adults. In addition, the CYAB recommends state detention policies which support adolescent brain development completing in the mid-twenties.

## Appendix P

---

## Case Examples

---

*The examples below are from interviews and letters voluntarily submitted by youth and parents who have been involved in the juvenile legal system. Although many case examples were gathered to inform the Road Map and provide real life experiences of families, due size limitations of the document, these examples were selected to be included in this appendix. The stories include are presented in the first person as narrated to staff.*

*These stories reflect families involved with the Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) and/or Step-Up programs, programs for families that have experienced intra-family violence by adolescents. Personally identifying information has been removed from these narratives to preserve the privacy of the participants and names have been changed.*

### Angel's Story

I want to share my story with stakeholders from the juvenile justice system and the public because I want them to learn and become aware of our situation. My son is in danger every single minute. I believe there are many more parents in my position. I have a brother who was kidnapped and I have experienced a lot of trauma in my life. This pain is not erased. I fear that my son will end up dead or harming others. If that ever happens, I want to know that I did everything in my power to get him help. It is because of this that I have spent the past two years showing up to his school, court related appointments, and calling law enforcement in hopes of getting help. I want people to know that this experience is extremely difficult. I am sure other parents are experiencing even worse things than my family. I wonder if other parents have given up seeking services or if they simply do not care. I want something that works and to know that the law is on the side of families.

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's office has received at least four referrals from law enforcement about Angel committing crimes in the community within a 6-month period. When a FIRS court social worker contacted me, I was extremely grateful for the offer of services. I had been seeking help at Angel's school and within the community without success. Me and Angel's mother, Martha have called the police on Angel many times. He has been violent towards her, stolen hundreds of dollars and belongings of ours, destroyed property in the neighborhood, dropped out of school, come home drunk and high, taken my truck without permission, left the house for days, and other concerning behaviors. He once took a BB gun to school. Another time, he and his friend damaged several neighbors' property with a BB gun. Recently, a friend of his and his father tried to run me over and threatened to kill me due to Angel's problems.

One night, I came home to find Angel with nine of his friends pulling my truck apart into parts. When police arrived, they said they could not incarcerate anyone because Angel had invited them over and that the same laws did not apply to youth as they did for adults. I felt a deep sense of despair and frustration seeing the damages on my truck. The police officer told me to seek recourse with the insurance company. I have spent a great deal of money repairing damages that Angel and his friends have caused.

I have been very concerned that Angel might commit greater harm that could lead to the loss of life, or get himself or our family in greater trouble. Once, the police mistook me for Angel and took me to jail instead. I spent several days there and paid about two thousand dollars to be released. I would like help holding Angel accountable for his behavior and to regain control of him before his behavior escalates even further. I want my son to know that there are laws and rules he must respect. I have not been successful in getting Angel to agree to attend counseling, school, or engage in other services. There have been moments when Angel agrees that he could use some guidance and support. However, when I attempt to drive him somewhere, Angel leaves the home, sometimes for days, and cannot be found. I am the most concerned about the safety of my wife and younger daughter who are threatened when Angel becomes angry and I am not around to protect them. My daughter has asked me to kick

---

**Case Examples**

---

him out of the home. I cannot. I need to get him help. I worry that Angel might be using heavy drugs or involved with gangs, but I do not know exactly what is going on.

I have been so desperate, I have even thought about sending him to Mexico from where Martha and I are from, but it is unsafe there as well. I do not know what to do. When I inquire about his whereabouts or motives for missing school, Angel tells me that it is his life and becomes aggressive violent. He does not listen to my attempts to keep him home, establish rules, or to enact punishments for his behavior. He becomes furious if I take his phone and destroys property until he gets it back. When I have called the police to report property destruction, Angel leaves and they cease looking for him soon after.

I am concerned that Angel's behavior might get us evicted from our apartment and if we get an eviction on our record, it will be nearly impossible to get housing in the future. I often have to leave work to tend to the problems Angel causes for the family and this is jeopardizing our health and my job. When I leave work, I am not paid for that time. I am also concerned about losing my job because my wife is a stay at home mother and we do not have other sources of income. I often do not sleep wondering where my son is or what he is up to.

I am concerned about Angel's safety on the streets because I know he spends time with known gang members. I also knows that Angel carries knives. I am not sure what kind of activities Angel is participating in. I have called the police so many times, they know me and they tell me there is nothing they can do. But I know the offenses Angel is committing are against the law. I am at a loss about how to get help in a way that will force him to participate in services. I would like to be taken seriously by the juvenile justice system to protect my family, keep everyone safe, set us up for success, and regain stability in our home. I desperately want my son to receive the help he needs before he hurts himself or others further. I am very concerned for Angel's future.

As far as I am concerned, Angel does not suffer mental illness and he has not had any traumatic experiences. Angel also did not report having had experienced any traumatic events throughout his life. Once, Angel received services from the Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) program. We were referred to services but Angel did not participate and his case was closed. A probation counselor tried to get involved with no avail. I believe Angel received some type of support at school, but because Angel attends sporadically, he must also not have received those supports consistently. I do not know what kind of interventions he received there. Once, the doctor referred him to substance abuse treatment because he was hungover when I took him, but Angel refused to participate. I wish there was someone in Angel's life that could teach him how to make better decisions. I wish there was some kind of program that would force him to participate in services. I would like him to get an ankle monitor for the courts to track him and his whereabouts.

**Rebecca's Story**

*Rebecca is the mother of Tyrell and Shelly. Tyrell has been involved with the juvenile legal system throughout his teenage years.*

I am sharing the story of my family's involvement in the juvenile justice system and mental health services with the public because I feel unheard by the professionals that have intervened with my family. I believe that it is an unjust, long, and hard system with few good people who see through the manipulation of adults and children who are trained to batter. In the process, the victim is re-victimized. I want people to know that the services in the state are not there. I believe the person causing harm needs to be mandated to get help.

---

**Case Examples**

---

Children should not have the right to make decisions regarding their mental health, especially when they have diagnosed comprehension disorders and impulsivity disorders like my son who is not going to make wise decisions for himself. It is unethical for courts to say that they cannot order youth to mental health or drug treatment when youth are affecting and hurting the people around them.

I also do not think that people who are advocating for not detaining youth are thinking about what will happen to that youth once they are an adult and charged in that system. The offenses they will commit as adults will be much greater, when their behavior could have been disrupted earlier. I am sharing my story because I want to help people understand this angle and hope that it at least begins to help change the system.

I have two children, Shelly aged 14 and Tyrell aged 17. They both suffered physical and emotional abuse at the hands of their father while they were raised, and continue to be victimized to some extent when they visit him. Their father and I divorced when Tyrell was 9 and Shelly was 5. I was awarded custody of the children. At this time, Tyrell became violent towards me and Shelly. I wanted Tyrell to learn that violent behavior was unacceptable, that I would establish boundaries, and that there were serious consequences for his behavior. I had hoped that if I called the police, they would take him to detention so he could understand this. Instead, when the police came to our house, they would often say there is nothing they could do.

The year that Tyrell was 12 years old, his use of violence towards Shelly and I was so frequent and severe that I called the police department 16 times. Out of those times, police took him to the hospital three times. At the hospital, they would evaluate him and send him back home within a day. I became frustrated and afraid because Tyrell's violent behavior continued daily. One of the attacks was so severe, that he fractured his hand and my nose with his fist. He often threatened to kill Shelly and I and I believed that in a fit of rage, he accidentally might.

Tyrell learned many unhealthy and abusive behaviors from his father that he expressed towards Shelly and me. His dad uses visitation rights as an opportunity to abuse and thwart my attempts to establish structure at home. His dad has made many false accusations to Child Protective Services (CPS) about me. Those cases were investigated and unfounded. He has also sabotaged my efforts to get Tyrell help. His father was in the military and believes that by disciplining Tyrell abusively, he will be effective at managing his behavior.

Since Tyrell was four years of age, he has been enrolled in many support programs including sports teams, summer camps, and after school programs. He completed some programs successfully and other times he either quit or was kicked off. Mental health professionals, mentors, doctors and probation counselors have supported Tyrell and me throughout his life. He has had mentors from members within and outside of his family. He has participated and completed a wide range of mental health programs. He has received psychiatric treatment and has been prescribed medication. He has been extensively assessed and diagnosed on multiple occasions with mental illnesses ranging from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Depression, and Bipolar Disorder. We have all received individual and family counseling at multiple community agencies and we have received in-home family services. One mentor that came to the home attempted a "holistic healing intervention". I have also received a substantial amount of parenting training from professionals as well from counselors, and doctors.

CPS became involved with us upon being concerned for the safety and wellbeing of Shelly due to Tyrell's use of violence. Concerned that Shelly would be removed from the home if I could not be available to protect her from Tyrell's behavior, I left my job. In this condition, it has been burdensome for me to ensure that Tyrell makes all of his appointments. I do not have a working vehicle.

---

**Case Examples**

---

Upon entering high school, Tyrell started to skip school, spend time with gang members, and abuse substances like marijuana and alcohol. These alterations worsen his aggression. I have attempted to enforce rules in the home with some success. The constant arguments and explosions leave me feeling exhausted and demoralized. The prosecutor did not pursue charges against him for shoplifting. He refuses to attend substance abuse treatment since he does not believe substances compromise his success. He has been suspended from school for attending class under the influence and for threatening to hit a teacher. This was reported to the police and those charges were dropped too.

The police department is accustomed to receiving calls about us. Recently, the police told me to “stop calling unless it was an emergency”. Many times, I have felt unsafe when Tyrell has been abusive and violent. The police do not always refer him to the court. Depending on the case, police will de-escalate the situation by talking to Tyrell to calm him down, submitting a referral to the court, and by taking him to detention. Once an officer told me, “I am not going to write a report about a tantrum and detention won’t take them anyway unless they are 16” and the officer left. Police have blamed me for Tyrell’s behavior, not believed me, taken his side, and have even referred to our problems as a “parenting issue”.

Tyrell is now 16 years of age and continues to be violent towards me and Shelly. I have had to be medically treated due to the injuries I have experienced by Tyrell. At home, the doors, walls, and windows are broken. The refrigerator is destroyed and my car is also damaged. He pushes, grabs, kicks, slaps, and punches. I have had to barricade myself in my room with Shelly for safety while Tyrell has broken the door. Shelly has called the police when Tyrell has attacked me and when I cannot do so myself. He often takes my phone so that I cannot call the police and prevents me from leaving. I often have bruises on my body. Sometimes he hurts me accidentally. Once I even had to get stitches from an altercation with Tyrell when he had a knife. Another time, he hurt me soon after I had surgery and had to go to the clinic to get re-stitched.

From May 2015 to February 2018, the King County Prosecutor’s office received at least 11 referrals from law enforcement for Tyrell related to domestic violence against me and Shelly. The offenses recommended by police include Harassment, Assault 4, and Unlawful Imprisonment. On the occasions he has been presented to screening at detention, he would sometimes be transferred to the Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) center and other times to detention. FIRS will not take him anymore due to their many unsuccessful intervention attempts. He failed to complete three diversions and a FIRS agreement before the prosecutor agreed to file charges against him. Four of those cases were dismissed or considered to have insufficient evidence to be filed. He once agreed with a judge that he would attend a military academy, but he did not follow through once I went through the whole process of getting him enrolled.

Mental health support has been somewhat effective towards reducing his violent behavior. We (Shelly, Tyrell, and I) participated in “Step-Up”, a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) program for youth who are violent towards their family members. According to national, trauma-informed best practices, CBT has shown promising outcomes for youth who have experienced trauma. However, despite completing the program, he continued to be violent. We also participated in another evidence-based program called, “Wraparound” from the Department of Community and Health Services, a program that partners with King County and community-based mental health clinics to provide a culturally competent and results and strengths based intervention. However, Tyrell ceased to attend, continued to be violent, use drugs, and the court did not enforce participation or compliance. If he would have continued participating in Wraparound, he could have become eligible to receive services through Children’s Long Term Inpatient Program (CLIP), a Medicaid funded program that is the most intensive inpatient psychiatric treatment available to Washington state residents. We also attempted to participate in Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), another intensive, evidence-based, in-home family therapy, but did not find it helpful.

---

**Case Examples**

---

Many of these programs conflicted with each other in philosophy and were counterproductive towards holding Tyrell accountable for his actions. I felt that some service providers took “his side” over mine even though I had substantial evidence that he was violent towards me and Shelly. Programs that were “strengths based” would often overlook his lies and ignore his use of drugs and school attendance to make it seem that he was doing well and get him off their caseload. Sometimes these programs would serve to undermine my parenting by advocating for him to receive more privileges at home towards which I had implemented intentional controls. These inconsistencies caused disruption in the family and led to conflicts that escalated into his use of violence.

Once he punched me several times and threw me down on the ground and kept punching me. I had bruises all down my back. Another time, he body slammed me onto the bed, hit me in the head, pulled my hair, took my phone, and held me hostage – he wouldn’t let me leave.” Through all of this, I have been suffering repeated trauma and victimization by my son. Since my relationship with his father, the abuse towards me has been ongoing. I have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression. My mental and physical health has suffered while dealing with the stress and challenges that comes with jumping from service to service while Tyrell has continued to be violent. Tyrell exhibits violent resistance when going to receive services. I no longer feel safe driving him to programs or to his court-related meetings due to his violent aggression towards me during car rides so I refuse to continue to put myself in this situation. I fear for my life and that of Shelly’s when he is in the car because he might cause an accident during an attack.

I continue to hope that one day my son will receive the help he needs and that he will learn to change his behavior and attitude. Tyrell blames me for being abusive and violent. I believe the system helps to reinforce this narrative. I am concerned that he will become an adult and continue to be violent towards others in the future, including towards his partners. I am uncertain about the effects that Shelly will experience. I worry that he will be sent to his father’s home who fails to ensure he takes his medicine and allows him to engage in risky behavior such as not having to come home overnight. I believe that I am in an extremely difficult situation and do not see a better way to keep myself safe while Tyrell is in the best place for his wellbeing. I feel like I need to sacrifice my and Shelly’s safety and wellbeing to provide a stable home environment for him. When police take him to detention, I become worried to think that he will be sent to a youth shelter if I refuse to have him come home because I am concerned about the exposure he might get while he is there. He is very vulnerable to peer pressure and works hard to impress his peers.

I believe that Tyrell would benefit from an inpatient, dual-diagnoses program with mental health support such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. I would also like him to have a mentor with a similar lived experience. A sponsor from a substance abuse program could be helpful. This mentor/sponsor would need to see through his attempts to manipulate them, which he is skilled at doing. He needs to be mandated to attend these programs, or he will not do it. He has repeatedly made promises to the court and does not follow through unless he knows there will be consequences for not attending. I believe many therapists in the past have not been helpful due to their inability to see past his lying and deceit. I wish he would have been required to have attended the Washington Youth Academy or something similar because I have heard positive results from that program. I would like him to get his education away from gangs, drugs, and bad influences. I am feeling a sense of urgency because I fear he will be an adult soon and then become homeless.

I appreciate it when professionals in the juvenile justice system take into consideration parents’ concerns and knowledge before making decisions. I believe FIRS and Step Up are great programs that I enjoyed and from which my daughter and me learned much. I do not believe the police should be tying their personal perspectives to make decisions above my own perspective of the situation, or to inform whether or not they should press charges. I also

---

**Case Examples**

---

believe that youth should be mandated and forced to comply with community service, to attend school, or to follow through with any other court referrals and orders instead of the parents taking on these burdens. It enables him. Otherwise, when youth do not follow through, there are no repercussions. I also believe that youth should pay for their own restitution when they commit a crime, especially when they are of age to work, and that they should personally be expected to pay for their taxi and bus fare to travel to and from court to fulfill those obligations.

Since Tyrell wrote this letter, he has continued to use violence towards his family. He has since been in detention for a week and then transferred to a group home for a couple of weeks. He is no longer eligible to receive deferred sentences. For his last court hearing, his father hired a private defense attorney to defend him, depicted Rebecca negatively (saying that she was in contempt of the family order for not letting the father see the children, although the father is welcome to visit them at any time), and portrayed Tyrell as an “innocent child”. He was facing two felonies. One was dropped and the other one was reduced to a misdemeanor. The judge said she would not order him to attend counseling or his appointments (including medical management) because “[he is] nearly 18 and should learn to make [his] own decisions”. However, Tyrell has demonstrated over the years that he does not follow through with his services. Rebecca is angry and frustrated because she does not believe the court forces him to comply with services and this in turn is harmful to himself and his family.

## Appendix Q

# KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



DANIEL T. SATTERBERG  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

## Appendix Q Road Map to Zero Youth Detention

JUSTICE  
COMPASSION  
PROFESSIONALISM  
INTEGRITY  
LEADERSHIP

### **C.E.D.A.R. (Community Empowered Disposition Alternative and Resolution):**

*A more effective, efficient juvenile justice track that connects youth with community-based interventions and creates a path to success.*

**Background:** The traditional juvenile court process is slow and struggles to deliver timely interventions to youth and families. Children get caught up in a legal process that largely caters to form over substance. A typical juvenile offender case can take several months to adjudicate before a respondent receives any meaningful intervention services. During these months, youth and families are asked to appear for multiple hearings that take them away from school, work and other important obligations. Sadly, many children return to criminal activity while their cases are pending, resulting in additional charges and often admissions to juvenile detention.

Justice is not served when accountability and delivery of services are delayed. A healthy, effective juvenile justice system should strive to remove the barriers that delay a child's opportunity to make amends for harm caused and seek to build connections back to communities willing to provide support.

**CEDAR Proposal:** Development of an "expedited" track for certain first-time juvenile felony offenders that would allow for early acceptance of responsibility and provide positive incentive to engage in community resources and support. This would be a collaborative process that pulls together Juvenile Justice Stakeholders to achieve improved outcomes, while lowering rates of racial disproportionality and reducing use of detention.

The CEDAR track will employ a staffing model soon after a youth is charged with an offense. The prosecutor, defense attorney, and probation counselor will meet to discuss and collaborate on a community based intervention plan (within 1 month of charging). If a plan is established, then the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) will offer an accelerated plea to a reduction of the initial charge. At the same time, the youth is also provided an incentive to earn a further "case benefit", post-adjudication, through engagement with the intervention plan. The sentencing hearing would be continued out by agreement of the parties in order to facilitate engagement (in most cases 4-6 months). As needed, the agreement could also include participation in evidence based interventions provided through Juvenile Court. During the community engagement phase, a youth will be supported through a partnership between juvenile probation and community. If a youth succeeds in following through with the set conditions, then the parties would return to court to process the case benefit. Possible case benefits may be a lower disposition recommendation, further reduction in charges, or in many cases a dismissal. If the youth is not

successful, then we would return to court to enter disposition on the already adjudicated charge(s). (See Appendix A for examples of a CEDAR track process).

**Eligible Offenses:** The PAO proposes that CEDAR be available for most first-time felony cases including the “Top 10” felony offenses filed into Juvenile Court.<sup>1</sup> These would include Robbery 2, Assault 2, Assault 3, Residential Burglary, Burglary 2, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm 2. This category of crimes accounts for over 60 percent of all felonies filed into Juvenile Court. Unsurprisingly, these offenses also represent some of the highest rates of racial disproportionality in our juvenile justice system. Based on 2017 numbers, youth of color disproportionately make up 82% of respondents charged in these cases.

**2017 “Top 10” Juvenile Felony Breakdown**

Offense	Black	White	Hispanic	API	NA	Unk	Total
Robbery2	21	8	7	6	1	0	43
Att. Rob2	16	4	7	2	0	0	29
Theft1	11	1	9	5	1	0	27
Assault2	9	9	9	1	0	0	28
Assault3	20	8	6	0	1	0	35
Res Burg	15	4	3	3	0	0	25
Burg2	21	5	3	2	0	0	31
PSV <sup>2</sup>	12	3	17	2	1	0	35
TMV <sup>3</sup>	18	10	6	5	0	0	39
UPFA <sup>4</sup>	32	12	21	7	0	0	72
	175	64	88	33	4	0	364
% total	48%	18%	24%	9%	1%	0%	100%

**Community Justice Engagement:** Youth and families are best served when appropriate interventions can be community based and culturally responsive. CEDAR will be a vehicle for providing referrals to community-based organizations currently supported through the Best Starts for Kids Initiative.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, it can serve as a means for leveraging existing community partners who have a proven track record, and are ready and willing to work with Juvenile Court to support our youth. We already work with community organizations such as Choose 180, Restorative Mediation, and the Credible Messengers Program. Given the body of work CEDAR is anticipated to generate, county leadership must be willing to adequately fund these community partners to ensure program success.

<sup>1</sup> The PAO would exclude Serious Violent Offenses, Sexual Offenses, and Intimate Partner Domestic Violence.

<sup>2</sup> Possession of Stolen Vehicle.

<sup>3</sup> Taking Motor Vehicle Without Permission 2.

<sup>4</sup> Unlawful Possession of Firearm 2.

<sup>5</sup> 4Culture/Creative Justice, Black Star Line African Family Educational Collective, Cham Refugees Community, Community Network Council, Community Passageways, Good Shepherd Youth Outreach, Living Well Kent Collaborative, Na’ah Illahee Fund, POCAAN, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.

As an example, the PAO has had notable success piloting serious felonies and firearms related offenses through the Peacemaking Circle intervention provided by Point One North, LLC.<sup>6</sup> This organization has a broad network of community-based partners throughout King County, including faith-based organizations and culturally relevant providers, such as Consejo Counseling and Referral Service. The PAO's willingness to pilot violent felony offenses through a CEDAR process would necessarily involve the backing and funding of promising interventions such as Peacemaking Circles.

**Conclusion:** CEDAR already has broad support from King County Juvenile Court leadership, including judicial officers, probation, public defense and prosecutors. It is an innovative, progressive, smart approach to juvenile justice that is in line with other statewide efforts to keep children out of the juvenile justice system, such as ESSB 6550 which expands diversion options.<sup>7</sup>

The benefits of CEDAR will be substantial:

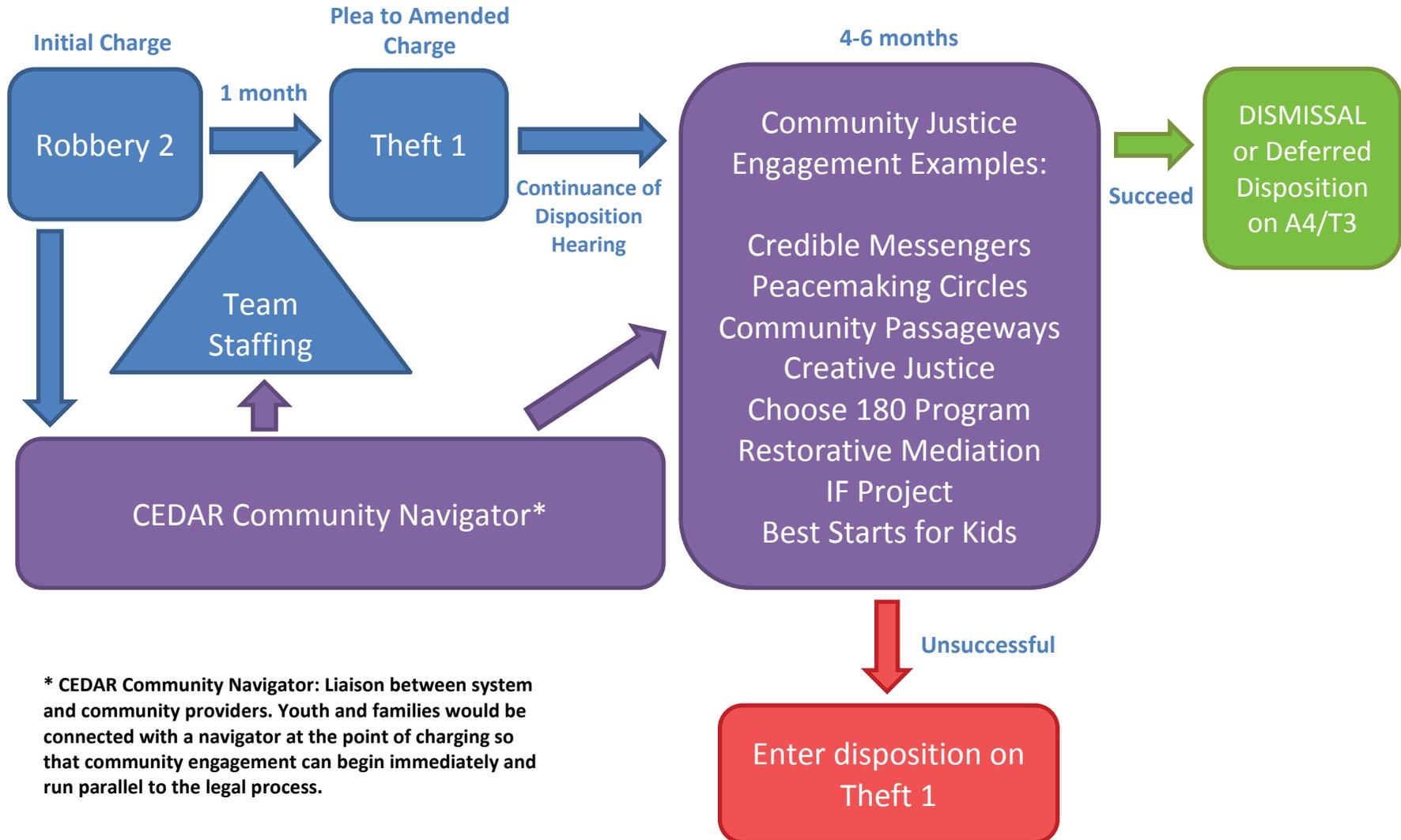
- Swift accountability and opportunity for atonement for youth.
- Provides an opportunity for youth to avoid criminal history.
- Swift justice for victims of crime.
- Reduces racial disproportionality.
- Reduces use of detention.
- Expedited access to evidence based services.
- Incentivizes engagement with effective community-based interventions.
- Substantially reduces the time that cases languish in the formal court process.
- Draws from restorative justice principles that are widely supported by the community and have proven effective in addressing juvenile delinquency.
- Significant long-term savings will be realized as a result of limiting costly formal court processing.

---

<sup>6</sup> The PAO has successfully diverted 11 cases using this specific intervention. The offenses involved Robbery 1, Felony Threats, and Felony Firearms Possession.

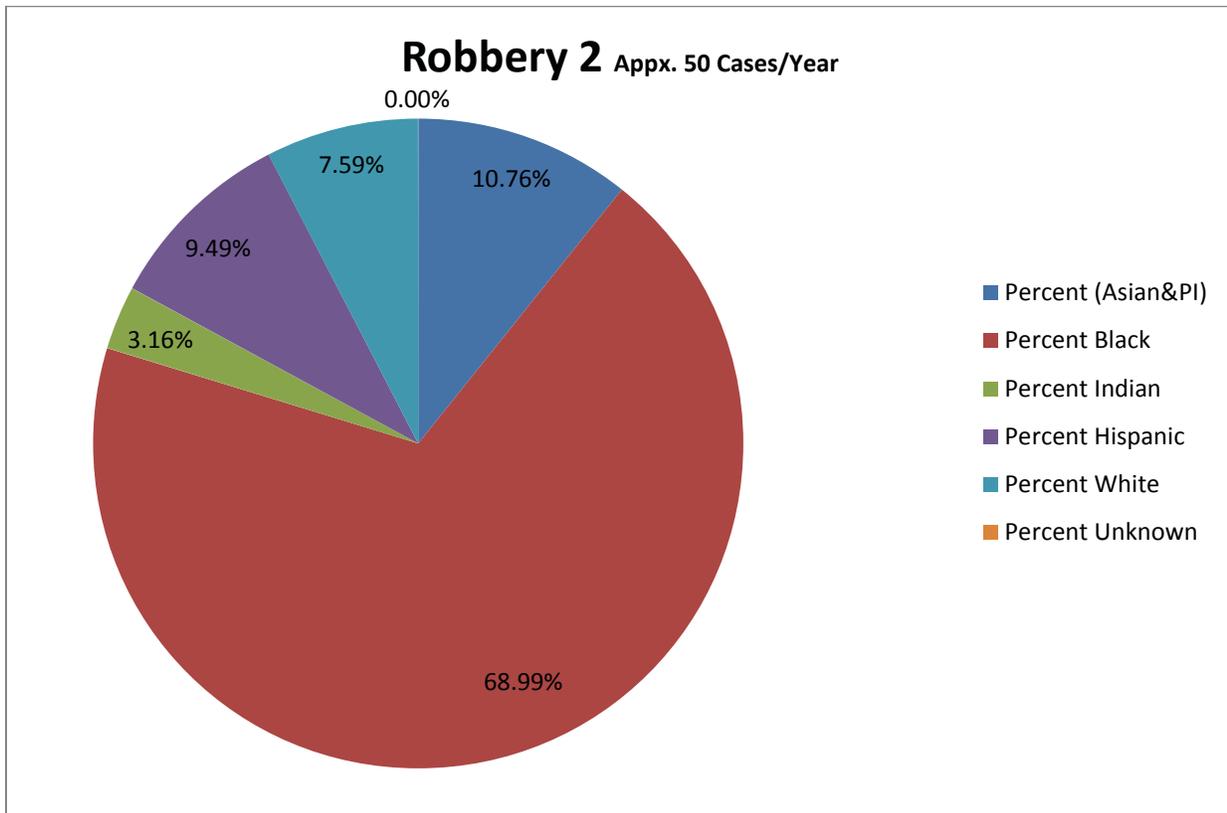
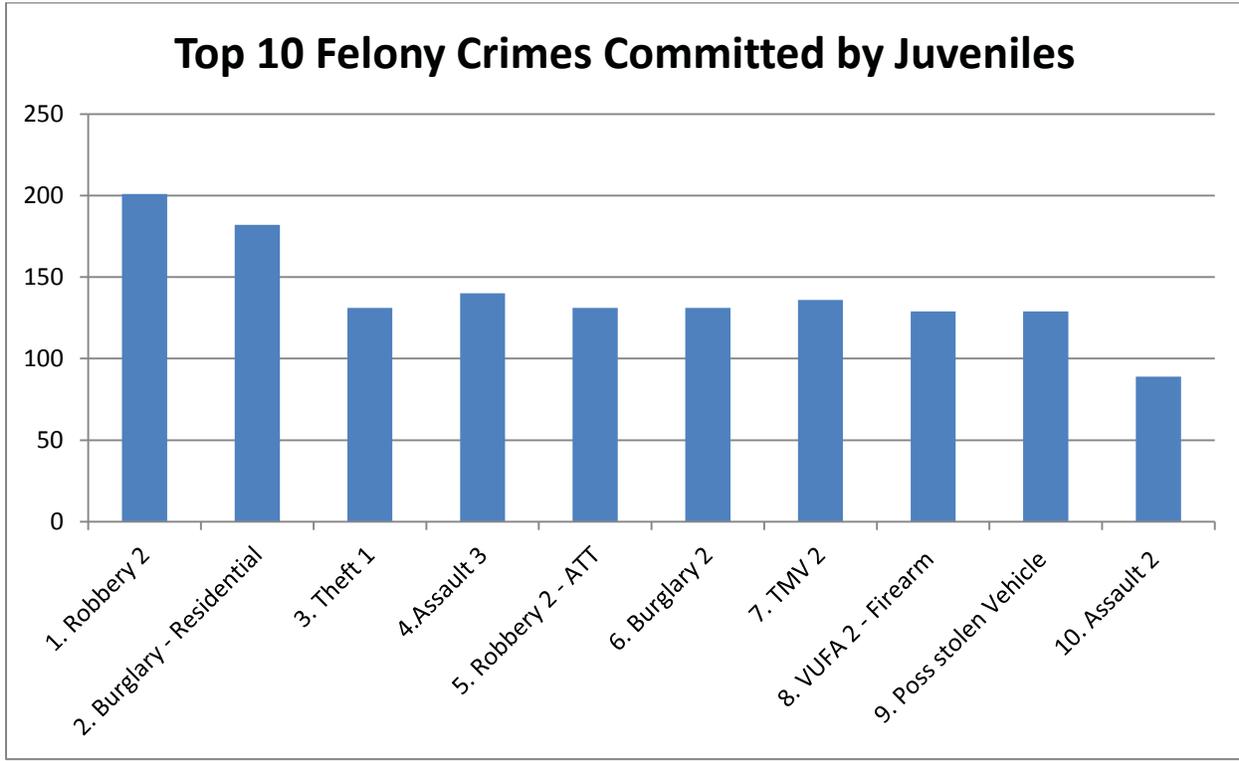
<sup>7</sup> <http://lawfilesexext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/6550-S.E%20HBR%20APH%2018.pdf>. Signed by Governor 3/15/2018. Effective date 6/7/2018

# Example of CEDAR Track Process:

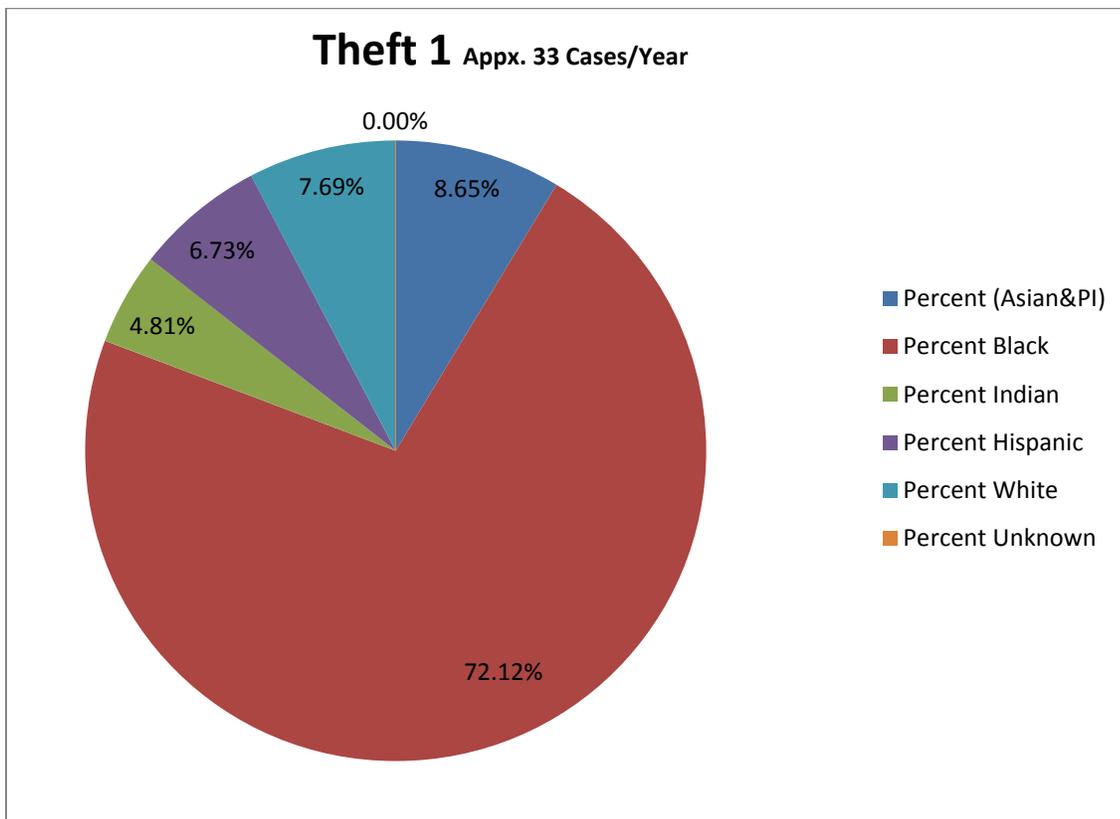
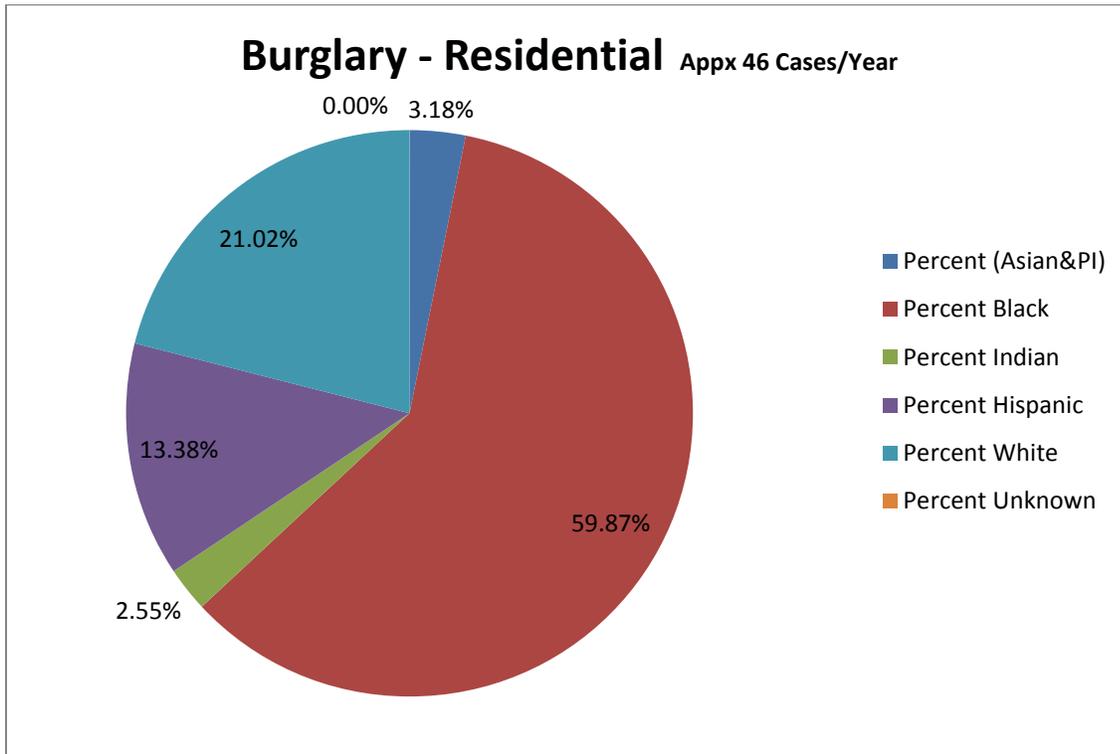


\* CEDAR Community Navigator: Liaison between system and community providers. Youth and families would be connected with a navigator at the point of charging so that community engagement can begin immediately and run parallel to the legal process.

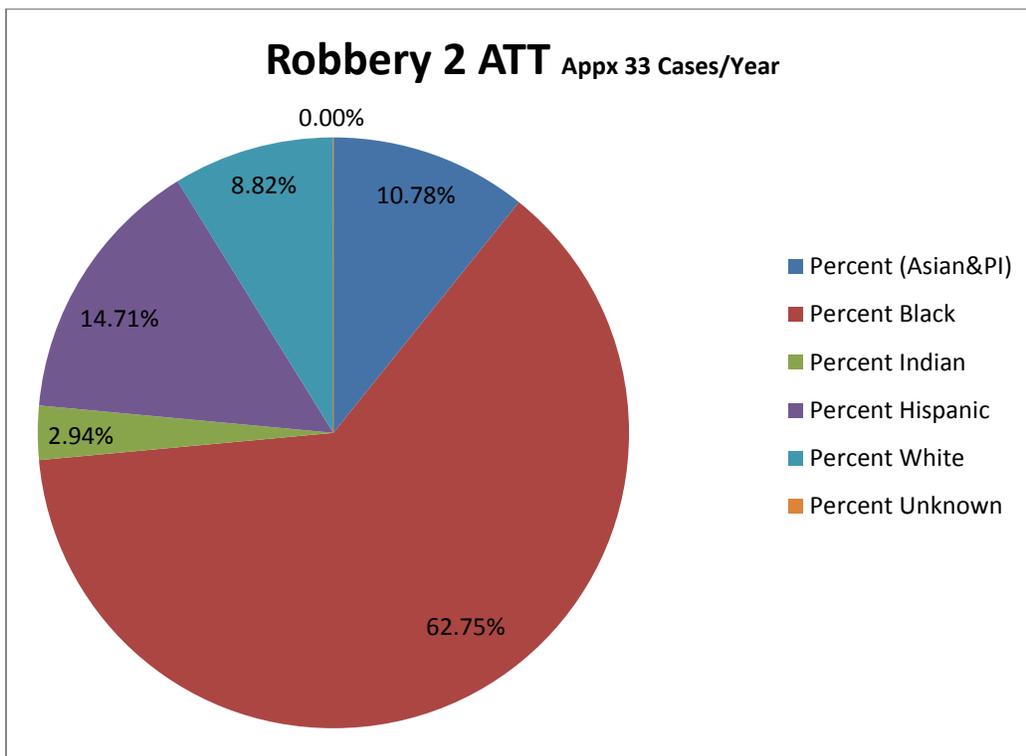
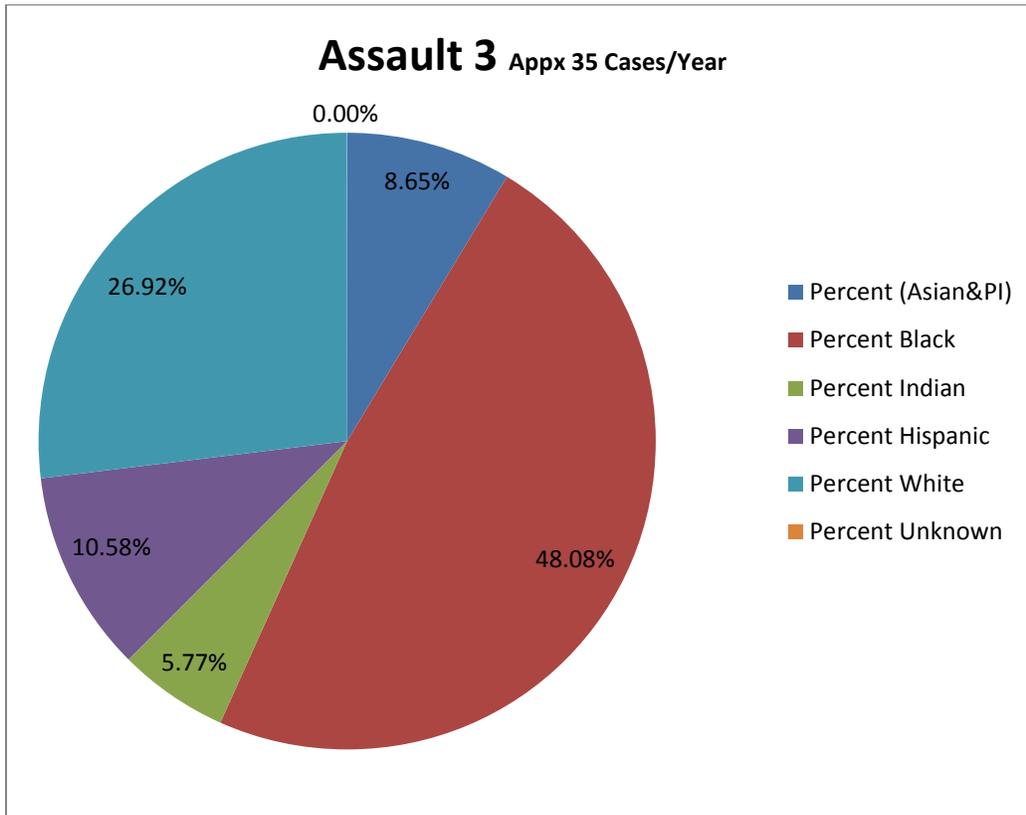
## The Racial Disproportionality of the Top Ten Felony Crimes Filed in King County Juvenile Court 2014-2017



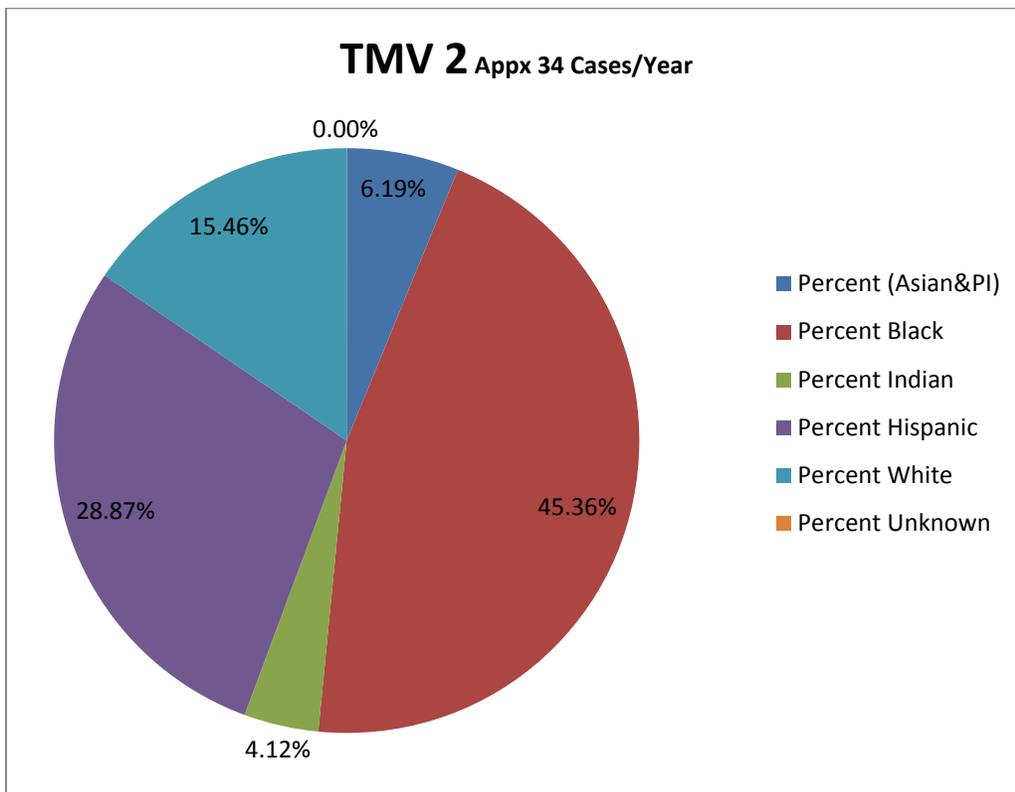
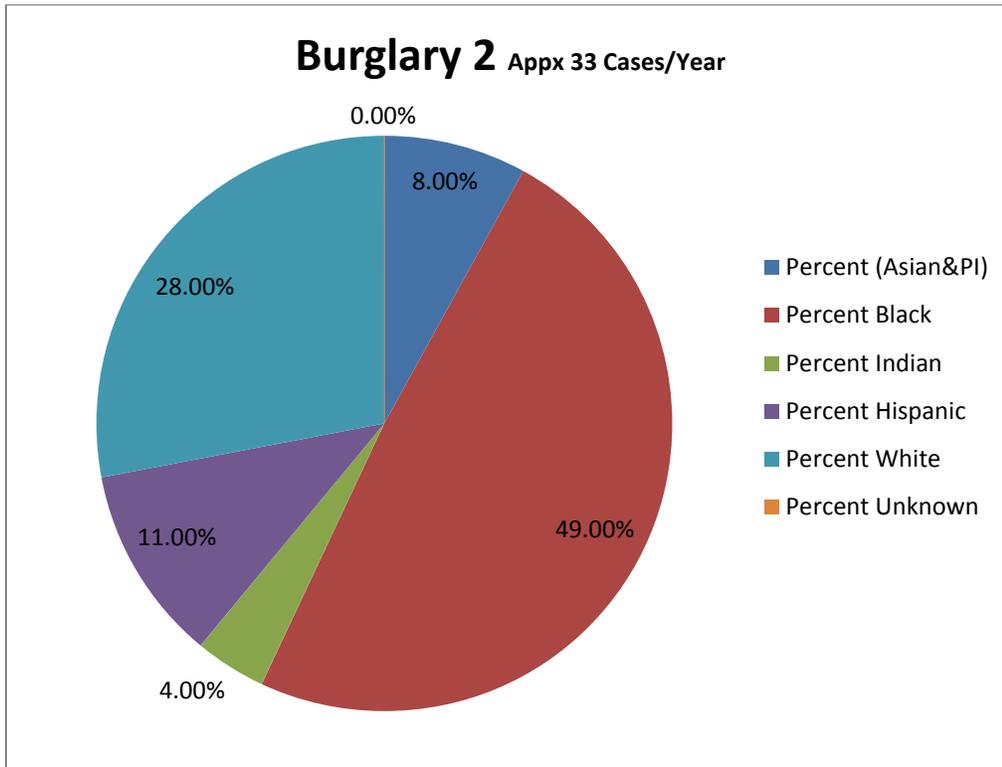
# The Racial Disproportionality of the Top Ten Felony Crimes Filed in King County Juvenile Court 2014-2017



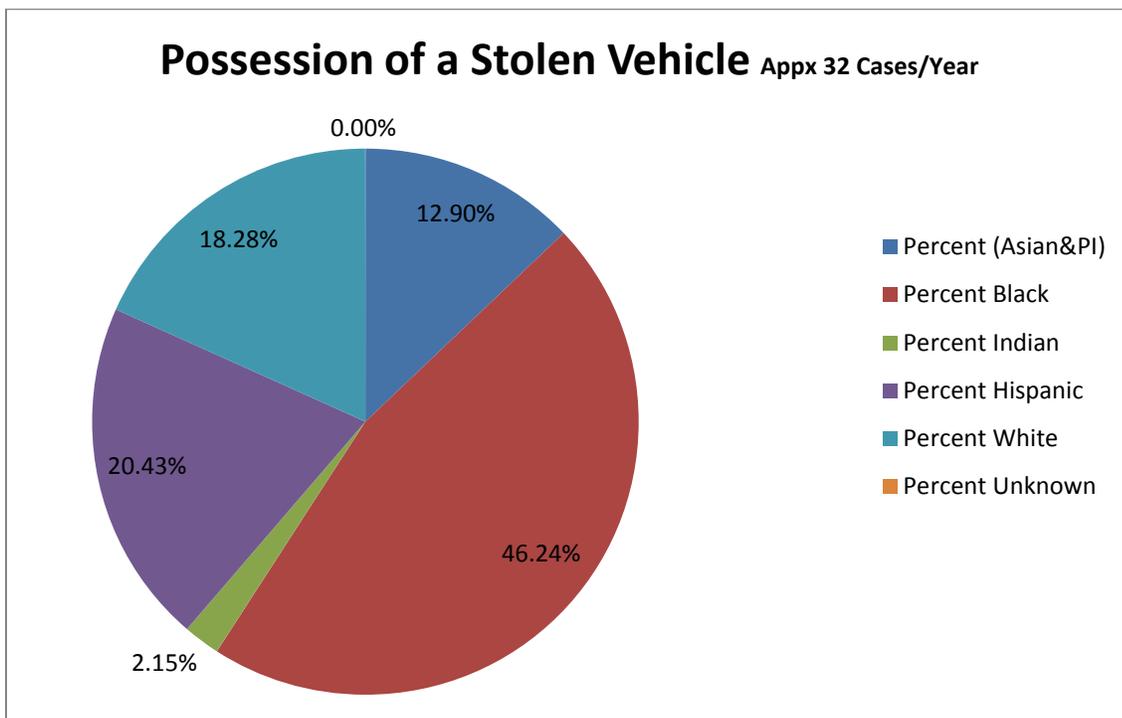
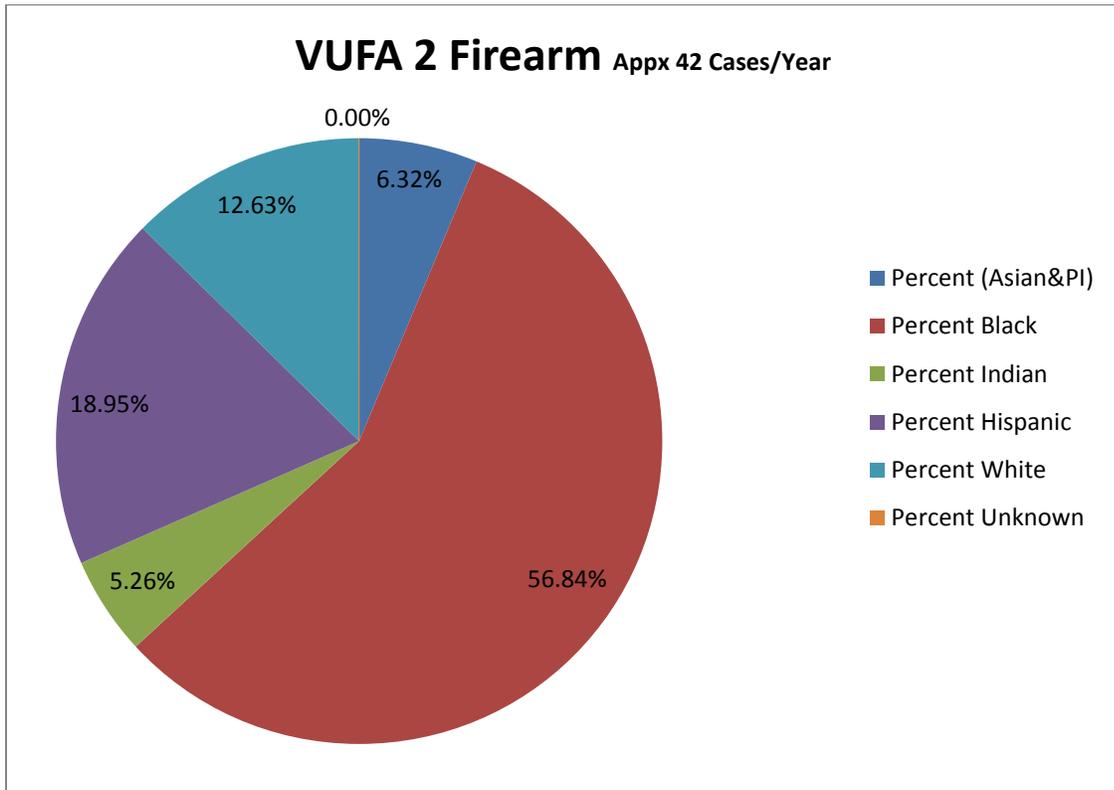
**The Racial Disproportionality of the Top Ten Felony Crimes**  
**Filed in King County Juvenile Court 2014-2017**



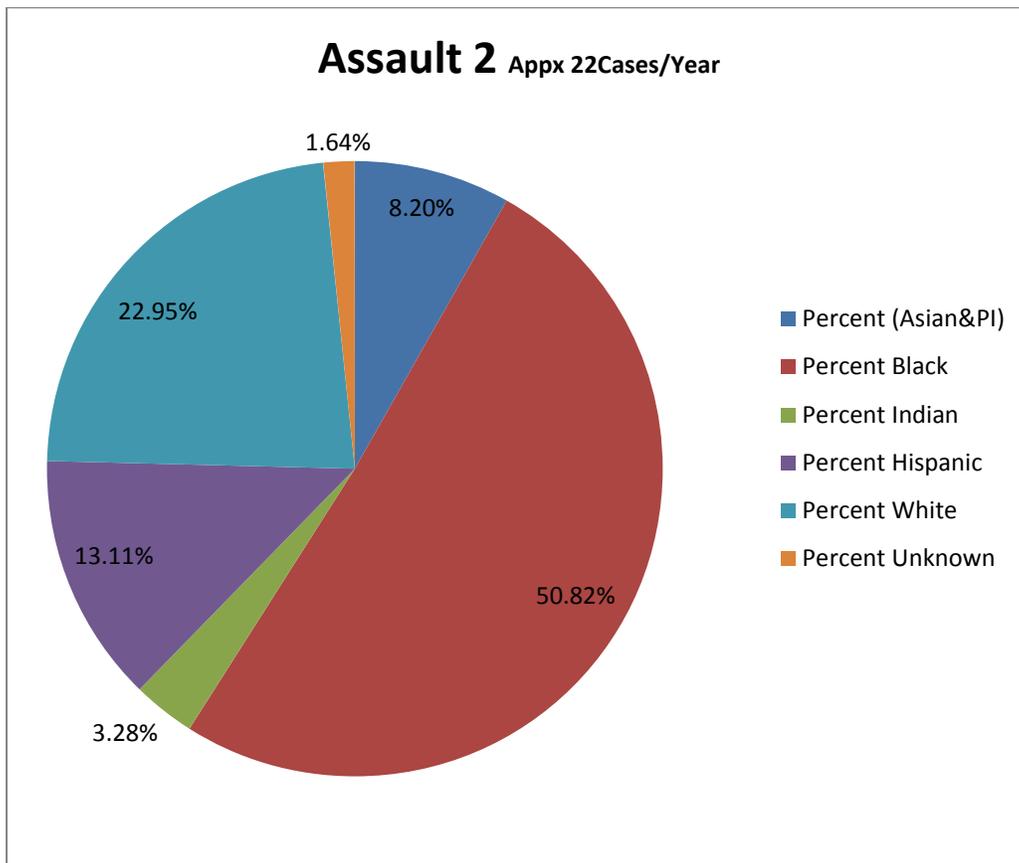
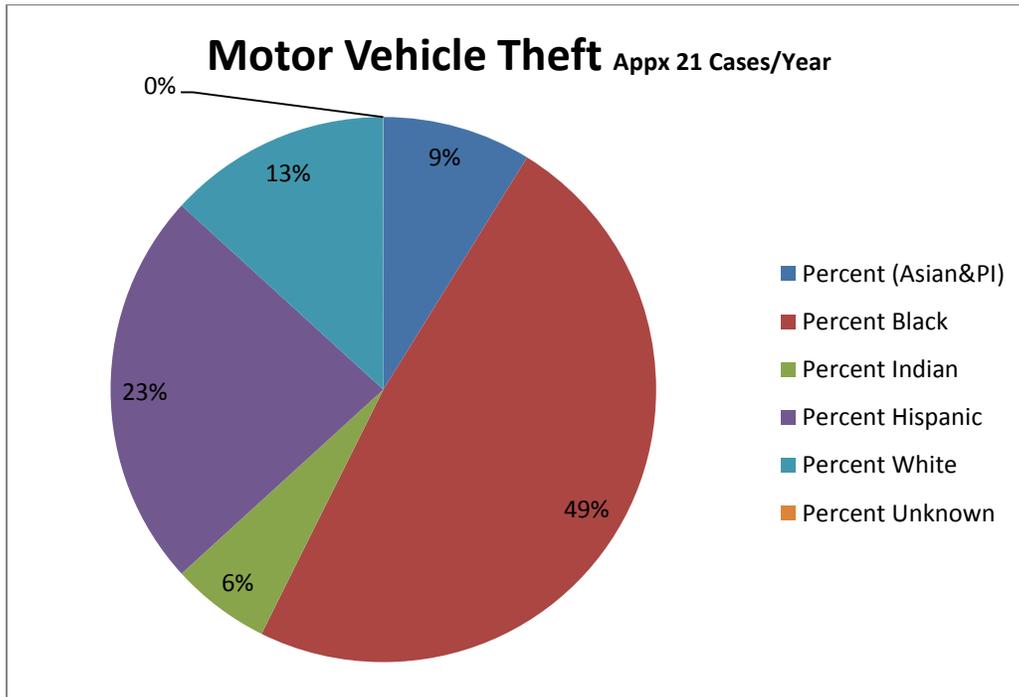
# The Racial Disproportionality of the Top Ten Felony Crimes Filed in King County Juvenile Court 2014-2017



**The Racial Disproportionality of the Top Ten Felony Crimes**  
**Filed in King County Juvenile Court 2014-2017**



# The Racial Disproportionality of the Top Ten Felony Crimes Filed in King County Juvenile Court 2014-2017



## Appendix R

**Uniting For Youth Member Organizations**

*As of 6.20.18*

<b>King County Departments and Agencies</b>	<b>Washington State Departments and Agencies</b>	<b>Community Organizations &amp; Other Partners</b>
Superior Court	Department of Social and Health Services	EL Centro de la Raza
Prosecuting Attorney's Office	Children's Administration/Department of Children Youth and Families	Center for Children and Youth Justice
Public Defense	Juvenile Rehabilitation	Guided Pathways
Public Health	Developmental Disabilities Administration	Seattle Police Department
Community and Human Services	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative
Adult and Juvenile Detention	Attorney General	Institute for Family Development
Performance, Strategy, and Budget		Puget Sound Educational Services District
		Robert F. Kennedy Youth Action Corp
		Casey Family Programs

## Appendix S

---

**Community Conversations and Focus Group Note**

---

The following represent consolidated notes from three in-person engagement sessions held by the County regarding the Road Map to Zero Youth Detention. In the two community led meetings, participants led group discussions, provided feedback on each objective and strategy item presented, and recorded their group notes. These notes were collected, consolidated and put into electronic form, as shown in Appendix S. The community focus group session notes were taken by County staff and consolidated into recurring themes below. Notes do not encompass all individual or specific ideas, rather general topics that came up more than once.

**Workforce**

- Staff (from King County, teachers and police) should be people who look like the youth, who are held accountable, who offer culturally responsive services, are effective youth workers (respectful, caring, involved in the community, genuine).
- Staff of color should be hired, promoted, and in leadership and decision making positions.
- Hiring practices and procedures should be examined and revisited.
- Staff of color should not be tokenized, barriers for them should be removed, such as recruiting and hiring individuals with criminal records.
- They should be supported to prevent burnout and adequately trained (specifically around white privilege, bias, and institutional racism).
- They should be from the community and involved in it.
- Training should be provided for judges and personnel should learn about the communities they serve.
- The commitment of system players (judges and PAO) should be measured.

**School**

- The County should partner with schools to disrupt the school to prison pipeline and consider them part of the legal system.
- Cities and county should hold schools accountable.
- Teachers should be relatable, culturally and physically reflective of the youth they serve (men and people of color).
- Schools should be incentivized upon consistent evaluations and performance.
- School funding should be tied to outcomes, including attendance and discipline measures. They should measure their disciplinary interventions and address root causes for misbehavior or students.
- Curriculum should be grass roots, teach civic engagement, life skills, vocational skills, rights, and social justice.
- Schools should provide after school mentoring and tutoring programs.
- Schools should be a supportive safety net, they should offer internal interventions, [crisis] resolutions, and resort to connecting youth with community resources rather than referring youth to law enforcement or to the court. They should offer parent supports and peer parental supports.
- There should not be police officers at schools.

**Money/Funding**

- Money should be divested from the system into youth supports, alternatives, and sustained community based resource investment.
- Youth serving people should be paid a living wage.
- Funding should be less restrictive to avoid strings tying community from doing their best work.

- Tie community group funding to the outcomes they offer.

### **Community Engagement**

- Listen to youth, impacted people, and the community to develop plans, recruit and hire leaders, identify needs, develop accountability measures and to define success.
- Incorporate faith communities.

### **Law Enforcement**

- Should immediately provide youth and families with options at first point of contact.
- They could offer onsite responses of credible messengers.
- Police should be dis-incentivized from arrest citations and provide alternative citations.
- All officers working with young people should be educated in cultural responsiveness, working with young people, and regarding adolescent brain development.
- They should have step down protocols.
- Their role should be defined by the community and the chief should be chosen by the community.
- Over-policing needs to be addressed.

### **Youth**

- Youth value relationship and connections.
- Expose them to different outlets for new mindset.
- They need a positive, pro social network.
- They need to learn the power of their thoughts.
- Surround themselves with people who have goals.
- Need to have a concrete plan.
- They need father figures.
- Should challenge themselves and have high standards for themselves.
- Should be involved in the community.
- They should be educated about their circumstances to help navigate their lives and develop self-awareness.

### **Diversion Options**

- Use multiple diversion points throughout the system that uses restorative options.
- Diversions shouldn't require youth to plead guilty or assume guilty.
- Diversions should also include enrichment programs such as sports, cultural programs, music, church, the YMCA, job training programs and community service.

### **Services**

- Youth in need of help should not have to get caught to get help.
- Youth should continue to be provided with care and support after the alternative program ends.
- Ensure that choices to fund programs are due to its ability to identify culturally and racially with the youth over the affordability of the program.
- Programs should be evaluated consistently to ensure effectiveness or original intent. There need to be more re-entry services.
- More [peer] mentors, community ambassadors, advocates, and role models are needed. Identify barriers to accessing resources and remove them.
- Mental health supports need to be long term.

- There needs to be more involvement of hospitals and mental health clinics.
- Youth should be offered trade and other career opportunities and be paid livable wages.
- Peer models could be used to set youth up with incentives and community service.

**Judicial Process**

- There should be service providers of color in the courtroom.
- Racial disproportionality in the application of sentencing should specifically be addressed.
- The charges youth get should be in the direction of resources.
- Sentencing guidelines need to change.
- There need to be pathways towards clean records.
- The rate of prosecution (and school discipline) should be tied to a performance appraisal.

**Policies**

- There needs to be a process to make an inventory of current policies.
- More policies should not necessarily be created, and it is the discretion in the application of policy that makes it racist, not the inherent policy itself.
- Examine policies and practices that affect people of color once they enter the system.
- Policies should be pro-family support, not which separate families.
- The impact of policies should be carefully considered and examined.
- The intention of policies need to be honored, although there will be different lenses interpreting and applying them.
- The County should not build policy around making people comfortable.
- It should be willing to deal with the political fallout consequential of white fragility.
- There need to be rules and policies for grievances in the system.
- Data for South King County needs to be used as a flashlight and not a weapon.
- Add policies that ensure that racial disproportionality does not happen.
- Evaluations should be assessed by independent groups.
- For those who are involved in administering punitive consequences, they should collect data on the outcomes of their decisions and analyze the criteria that permits advancement in the legal system to determine accountability of system players.
- Those who make referrals to the legal system could be asked to present the number of alternatives and the quality of the alternative options they sought before seeking recourse with the legal system.

## Appendix T

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**  
**King County Employee Focus Group Notes**

---

King County employee focus groups were held with employee groups that provide direct services to families and youth involved with the juvenile legal system. Employee focus groups were held with employees from:

- Department of Public Defense
- Family Court Services and Juvenile Court
- Department of Community and Human Services
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

A focus group was also held with Superior Court judges.

Employee focus group meetings were facilitated by King County employees from the Zero Youth Detention (ZYD) initiative. During meetings, staff took notes as participants shared their feedback. These notes consolidate specific comments and overarching themes.

Groups shared the following feedback:

- A sense of frustration regarding the environmental constraints and complexities inherent to their jobs while witnessing the serious situations experienced by the people they are tasked to support
- The scenarios that they share are regarding examples of people in life or death situations, families that tremendously suffer, parents that do not have places to turn, and communities who are not always served by law enforcement, schools, and the legal system itself.
- Agreement that racial disproportionality in the juvenile legal system is a problem and cause for grave concern; there was not uniformity or common sentiments within groups about what the causes or solutions were to this.
- No one contested that racial disproportionality was a priority and several groups cited the efforts being undertaken to address it; employees often cited the injustices they witnessed within the system that led to racial injustice within.
- Most groups had questions regarding how much resistance the ZYD initiative was getting from within and outside of King County and what was being done to address it.
- A perception was articulated that all departments and entities in the county are working within their respective roles towards reducing and/or eliminating the use of punitive, ineffective measures that are unnecessary, including detention.
- Each group had concerns about the efforts being planned and discussed by ZYD, and a need to ensure that policymakers, the public, and government leaders understood the implications of ZYD on youth and families as well as the layers of complexity and barriers within the juvenile legal system.
- All groups had questions regarding how law enforcement and schools were being engaged, understanding that efforts regarding ZYD could not be advanced unless robust partnerships with these players were broadened.
- For preventative efforts to be successful, schools (including administrators and teachers), need to understand the impact of engaging youth who are disproportionately impacted such as youth with disabilities and youth of color while also needing to be adequately resourced programmatically and economically.

**Appendix T**  
**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**

- Agreement on the need for effective preventative measures within the schools related to physical and mental health: children at the youngest age are the most vulnerable to harm, and interventions can be most impactful during the first years of life; lack of school success is detrimental to a youth's wellbeing and future to improve prospects of wellbeing.
- Participants stressed the importance of collaboration with schools, inquired regarding the formation of the partnership, and asked for future social workers and teachers to receive education in understanding the specific populations in the community.
- Nearly all groups expressed a need for accountability, transparency, alignment, and further coordination on behalf of schools, law enforcement, and within King County.
- There were suggestions to tie funding to outcomes to incentivize systems to account for their roles that result in the progressive decline in wellbeing of underserved youth; when a young person's needs are unaddressed within the early system interventions, their wellbeing suffers and their involvement in activities that are dangerous escalates; direct funding to county departments and entities and community organizations that are providing results, quality, and effective services.
- There are serious barriers in organizing the several police departments, school districts, government departments and their level of willingness and capacity to take risks and try different approaches.
- Groups asked for efforts to be adequately funded. There are many concerns about ZYD and other current initiatives to receive funding in a sustainable manner.
- Current efforts that would work better if they had more personnel, stability in workforce, quality of services, the ability to provide wider support, or could be accessible to more youth and families with less restrictions.
- Sometimes programs are available only to a limited number of youth or of youth in certain situations: sometimes the more intensive services are available for youth who have escalated in need, while youth who are predictably on a concerning path cannot access those same services to prevent further harm.
- All expressed the need for family-level supports: youth who are involved in the legal system come from families that have exacerbated their own resources to keep their family safe and to address their needs.
- Families often do not have the ability or capacity to engage in the legal system since it is not set up to accommodate them and youth often do not respond to the efforts that their family has made towards engaging them on a path towards wellbeing.
- There are also challenges towards supporting families when parents seek support from the law to compel their child to participate in services (such as drug and alcohol counseling) and an unwillingness or inability from the system to take action on the parents' wishes.
- Each group talked about the need for timely and relevant interventions: in the current system, youth are identified by being "at risk" by parents and schools. By the time law enforcement becomes involved, youth are already expressing dangerous, concerning symptoms of unaddressed needs that threaten communal safety.
- Law enforcement intervention is inconsistent and seems to have mixed success in de-escalating situations in the moment and ensuring that it is a productive outcome for all parties involved.
- Police do not have the capacity to address the root causes that lead to the particular scenario and to prevent from future incidents; they could be successful in addressing one situation, only to need to respond to harm that has already been committed in the future.
- Sometimes, avoiding arrest leads to an escalation of needs within families and youth without receiving adequate supports; by the time the prosecutor receives a report, who may or may not choose to act, the circumstances for the youth and family reach a level of exacerbation that is difficult to address.

**Appendix T**  
**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**

- The juvenile legal system is transitioning from being punitive and incarceration focused to a restorative and alternatives approach. And in doing that, youth and families that are experiencing the impacts and gaps of this transition.
- There is an opportunity for programs and supports to be put in place without expecting or depending on the prosecutor to take action or file charges for families and youth to receive services through the legal system.
- Prior to legal system involvement, families and service providers have serious struggles to engage youth voluntarily: parents make appointments with organizations and then experience resistance, conflict, and violence attempting to attend those meeting. In turn, this leads to stressors on family leaders, strain on interfamily dynamics, service providing agencies, and school attendance, engagement, and performance.
- Another theme was around the need to strengthen community supports and to develop new programs. Groups talked about a need for intermediate, intensive, sustainable, and properly supported community based organizations.
- There are some community based organizations that may not have the capacity to support the youth involved in the legal justice system, impacting of the number of youth they serve, their geographical accessibility, or in the level of services and support needed to address the needs of youth and families.
- Some groups cited programs that had been previously implemented and successful but had lost funding.

Other needs statements that surged repeatedly, perhaps not expressed by each group, included:

- Need for culturally responsive services, the need to make large systemic changes within and across department
- Need for changes to legislation and regulations that seemed to hinder the support of youth and families.
- Need for outreach to be done in a manner in which providers go out to youth and families, not the other way around.
- Need for county departments and entities to develop technical skills and abilities of staff and to provide services without interruption.

In addition:

- Several groups expressed concerns about the community perception regarding their role in youth and family wellbeing and how negative perceptions led to the harming of the people that need their programs the most.
- There were many questions about how these perceptions were being addressed and a need for King County to educate the public regarding the services that were offered in hopes that situations could be addressed preventatively, rather than turning towards the legal system when it can less likely engage youth voluntarily.
- Overall, all groups are concerned about the wellbeing and youth of families.
- Some are more willing to accept ZYD than others: some expressed fear of losing their jobs and having their livelihoods threatened. Some articulated skepticism regarding research.
- Many participants had questions about the legitimacy of other groups making suggestions about their work.
- Some groups stressed the importance of understanding that the scope of the work has changed over the years; in the past, the focus was on working with youth who committed petty misdemeanors. Recently, the work is focused on precarious situations with high and complex needs.

**Appendix T**  
**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention**

- Groups stressed the importance of ensuring that youth would still be held accountable and expect structure from the community.
- Most groups welcomed further conversation around the topic.

Finally,

- Many participants were concerned about the hasty and bold reforms being offered.
- Skepticism was noted regarding community safety and accountability.
- Participants wanted to be sure that policymakers and other decision makers were fully aware of the complexities and nuances of the work.
- Concerns were expressed about youth and families; however, how to go about addressing crime and dangerous behavior is something where the various employee groups differ greatly.

## Appendix U

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

*Comments below were provided by those who took the Road Map to Zero Youth Detention public survey. Comments were provided in response to Question 10: What's Missing. They are unedited by county staff. Responses in English follow the comments provided in Spanish, which were translated by County staff.*

Que los jóvenes sean las voces principales del programa- no adultos que no escuchan  
*That youth be the principle voices of the program, not adults that do not listen.*

Hacen falta familias íntegras. Hogares con AMBOS padres responsabilizándose por los menores. Iglesias involucradas. Sentido de responsabilidad hacia el prójimo. Hacen falta jóvenes con principios. Pero, esa no es responsabilidad de ustedes.  
*There is a lack of integrated families. Homes with BOTH parents being responsible for minors. Involved churches. A sense of responsibility towards the other. There is a lack of youth with principles. But, that is not your responsibility.*

Educar a los padres a que entiendan que la educación comienza en casa, desde que sus hijos son bebés. Así cuando estos sean jóvenes respeten las leyes y a las autoridades.  
*Educate parents to understand that education begins at home, since their kids are babies. That way when these are youth they respect the law and authorities.*

Que los abogados de corte agan más x los jóvenes que yegan a caer en la justicia  
*That the court attorneys do more so that youth that may fall in the justice.*

---

More funds used for social workers rather than police, training for community at large and for those specifically working with youth not to use police as the 1st line of action for problems

Jail and incarceration serve a purpose. Lock up all juveniles convicted of violent felonies.

The youth/family engagement and systems alignment pieces are essential to all of these efforts, with the lens of eliminating racially disproportionate policies at the forefront. Part of the alignment issue has been how do we move youth appropriate from one system to another, within the scope of that system, without continuously intruding on the youth's/family's life.

why no age distinction for "over 55"? Do you really not care if there's a difference between someone who's 55, or 60, or 70, or 80?

The aims of objective 1 ought to be integrated throughout objectives 2-4, recognizing the systemic racism pervasive in our criminal justice and juvenile justice systems. Undoing racism in these systems demands more than addressing disproportionate representation within the system. Racism should be named at all levels and racist policy should be excised from prevention and diversion initiatives. Missing from this plan is advocacy advancing divestment from the prison industrial system on the part of public and private entities in the county. Incarceration should not be profitable.

Youth incarceration by race should align with crimes committed by race. The current Liberal policies of King County discourage parent and individual youth responsibility and - news flash - it isn't working.

The money and dedication to pull this off.

Restorative Practices are harmful and traumatic if not led by competent folks. Lots of folks are leading them, some are doing more damage.

Giving people in the community money repeatedly to do programming when KC Juv Just staff know they are not doing what they say they are doing. This furthers the distrust of the system and its staff.

Provide stable, safe, and affordable housing and job opportunities for children and family members. Restore parents currently wrongly incarcerated and provide assistance reintegrating back into society. Provide equitable access to higher education.

More discourse with conflicting ideals on the Youth Jail - ie more engagement of opposition groups, department of public defense, etc. More discussion about ways that the youth detention facility could be used in more productive ways than incarceration.

I am concerned that this endeavor will lead to legitimate criminals escaping justice via "diversionary pathways".

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

There must be acknowledgment that reducing access to guns is a public healthy safety priority related to the goals listed under objectives.

I see nothing supporting strong two-parent families so that these youth learn discipline and right from wrong at a young age. Nor do I see anything that holds the communities where these youth come from responsible for perpetuating dependence on government or always laying blame on "the system" as the reason why these youth commit crimes.

A commitment by the King County Prosecutor's Office to consider these strategies and values in their charging decisions and prosecution of cases when charges are brought. Currently, the KCPAO brings charges for cases that could be diverted and imposes a "trial tax" for those youth who exercise their right to trial by increasing the charges and punishments upon conviction. These are contradictory actions. The KCPAO has great discretion and must exercise that discretion to meet these goals.

To keep them off the street and find them something productive

An "s" at the end of the word improve in the description for Strategy f.

Specific tools, such as counseling, therapy, parenting classes to strengthen family response when needed, ensuring basic needs are met (healthy food, safe homes/communities, regular health care, menstrual supplies for teen girls, clean clothes).

need more prisons for blacks & more ICE/deportation facilities for browns

People that do an illegal thing should be arrested and serve their time, simple as that.

I've grown up in a country where use of legal system to control youth crime was rare. Instead, something akin to community 'supervision' was used. It was entirely ineffective. Juvenile crime was rampant. This country was called the Soviet Union. Fortunately, people finally got rid of it. Don't turn the US into USSR.

My stepson spent time in therapy, special schools, and mental institutions for young people as well as the juvenile justice system. Ultimately all efforts seemed to fail because he continued to reject any and all authority, ending up serving time in the adult criminal justice system. Yes, a good question, what was missing?

an end goal towards the abolition of prisons

Zero is an unattainable goal. If a teenager hates life and shoots their parents in the face, you can't rehabilitate them into society

Support engagement in faith based activities.

Make the non-present parents responsible.

parental responsibility and accountability

None of these objectives will work if they are held in the same facility as youth incarceration. The construction of the new youth jail is damaging to the community, and its presence severely undermines the objectives of restorative justice and community involvement that are outlined above. The failure to mention the new facility in this survey also forces me to question the validity of this survey and how its results will be used.

Peer counseling and senior citizen community member involvement.

A strategy for objective 4 should be to increase access to fun and educational after school programs to keep children out of trouble. Programs should have staff knowledgeable in identifying problematic patterns of behavior and mentoring those children.

No Youth Jail. If there's nowhere to put a bunch of kids, the system will be less likely to imprison them.

If someone breaks the law, they need to be detained, regardless of race. Ignoring crime because of race or needing to have "equitable" representation of detainees is a slippery slope to go down. Please don't turn a blind eye on crime among our youth because of race. But please also help these troubled youth to help turn their lives around when they do get in trouble. Thank you.

Give control back to the parents.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Do not artificially inflate children minds and ego's, discipline, and respect for others is taught in the home, and should be reinforced by the school systems.

If the parents of the delinquent children are themselves delinquent then the parents should be held responsible as well, and charged a fine by the courts for not being responsible parents.

If the parents of delinquent children are not legal citizens then the entire family should be deported back to their home country. Our legal systems should not have to support children that have parents who do not abide by the laws of our country.

Greater diversity and accountability in the police force, measures to reduce bias and overuse of force by police officers. Most importantly, programs to make law enforcement a healthy part of the community instead of a source of fear and violence.

Most of these plans are focused on community involvement, which is great, but what the community involvement could look like is left too ambiguous. For this to be successful, "community involvement" needs to be developed and well defined ahead of time.

A disproportionate number of minorities are arrested because a disproportionate number of them commit crimes! These policies will result in more criminals on the street and more crime in the future. Also, people who should have criminal records will not and they will be able to buy guns because their background checks will be clean when they should not be. This is trying to replicate the failures of the Promise program and is a huge mistake...but I know King County is going to do this anyway.

For many youth it is way too late to divert them from a life of crime. Extreme leniency was applied time and time again in the case of repeat offender Maxfield Dare and many others. Property crime occurs at an extremely high rate in Seattle. While it is fine to give a first-time offender a second chance, we need to be infinitely tougher with repeat offenders.

There are already a lot of adults working to support at-risk youth, but they often have low salaries and huge caseloads. I think that in order for this to work there needs to be a really strong focus on creating jobs and supporting the adults who support the kids being diverted away from incarceration. Thank you for doing this! It's so important.

The money to pay for this. The staff to perform these services. The ability of the youth to want to utilize these services. It sounds like layers and layers of red tape.

I believe that youth should be considered in the juvenile legal system to the same degree as they are currently. While it may not be appropriate to immediately enter them into the system for arbitrary and minor infractions, more serious ones should be dealt with by the legal system. Keeping race out of it through training and reflection on the current policies I believe could be effective in reducing the amount of arbitrary infractions, keeping more youth out of the legal system that don't belong there.

All of these mask the fact that we're currently building cages for kids. Please make it more than pretty sounding objectives and walk the talk.

Encouraging church communities

I don't see anything here about pre-crisis attention to the issues that lead to encounters between young people and the legal system. That seems to me a serious lack. The less often such encounters occur, the less need there will be for the strategies described in this survey. That change would be a good thing.

For each individual, try to understand the specific context that led to criminal actions, and how to change that context when the individual is re-engaged with the community.

Employment training and jobs for youth and their parents. Support and services for parents and families such as rent assistance, food, health care and other basic services so they are more resilient and able to provide support and security for their children to help keep them connected and not seeking security and support from gangs and other criminal organizations. Community center funding in neighborhoods with high rates of youth arrests. More support staff in public schools.

mentally ill, substance abuse, disabilities, abuse, poor family relationships, LGBTQ, poor economic statuses (parents with no jobs or opportunities) and other issues override much of this issue. We really must push programs such as SPD's Detective Cookie's Chess program to show examples of cooperation and adults who work with kids (currently, this program, a good example of a "seed" program, is not marketed by King County).

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Children in foster care should NEVER be incarcerated as a means of returning them to placement. DCYF should not be using jail as a temporary placement or a coercive tool for the kids in their parents' dependency cases.

I'm not sure if the community and family based resources for diversion actually exist. But I like the thought.

Any strategy implemented must insure public safety. I see much focused on "heading off" potential issues before they become problems. I believe that King County sees the benefit of a community focused support system that would greatly help avoid the consequences of legal and judicial system involvement. But, any planned solution must also recognize the overall importance of protecting the citizens of the community from the result of program failure. Diversion, counseling and understanding focused on youth guidance will be impactful. I believe the overall concept can make a difference. It will take a long time to shift behavior. During that transition period (probably spanning a decade) the public must be protected from individual failures. I see no mention or even acknowledgement of protection of the general population or the length of time required to see any tangible results. The strategy should be amended to include time and general safety of constituents goal statements.

Youth detention is key to the problem. If they get a slap on the wrist then they'll just do it again. Or hold the parents accountable for their kids. I shouldn't be impacted by their kids.

Presumably, school policies are included in the first objective and strategies, but I think it's important to be specific. We know that children of color - especially black boys - are punished for behavior that is excused in white kids. And that suspensions and expulsions lead to inferior education, lower graduation rates, and susceptibility to gangs and other damaging influences. Recent studies also show that more challenging academic environments occupy youth and keep them out of trouble. School culture and policies are key to help kids make good choices and feel connected to their community.

Objective 1: Identify and put into place policies that counteract racial disproportionality -- we have to be purposeful about this!

Objective 2: Providing day care referrals for youth to allow youth parents to attend school.

Objective 2: Encourage youth family interaction in school to allow youth parents to stay in school

Objective 2: Relocate youth to safe homes if the home/family is part of the problem, or problematic.

Objective 4: Do not place geographic boundaries on offending youth that will end up resulting in re-violation - again, we have to be purposeful about this!

Community involvement is the only real working strategy here. Strong law enforcement and penalties are necessary. We need to keep the youth separate from the adult population but still penalized for behavior, especially violent behavior. The goal of zero detention is flawed.

Clear boundary where detention is acceptable such as violent crimes.

Holistic approach to services for youth and families (i.e. offer employment services at the Youth Services Center).

What's always missing from these proposals is an emphasis on cultivating high expectations within the system. Dumbing down process and policy is only required when you need consistency but, in the legal system, everyone's situation is unique. Forcing processes on offenders allows implicit biases to show through of the "well I didn't expect much out of him/her anyways" variety. If you can infuse the ideals of high expectations where everyone passing through the system leaves with the message, "we know you can do better, we see the potential in you to better yourself every day, and we expect nothing less," you will see greater dividends every single time.

More family support though families are listed often in this survey, families are the core and their support will be the base that this builds on.

What about those youth with no community or a community that will not accept them (LGBTQ Youth). I feel their are programs needed to serve the youth that do not have a community to turn to or resources to help them build their own community.

Too much is lumped together overall idea is right but first question is about not profiling kids, good. BUT the second half on hiring diversity is not related.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

You need to split these strategies into their own questions.

Also you should include an option of Other where one can write in if there is a concern.

GAPS like foster care and youth at risk programs. Need addressed. Housing options need addressed. Homeless or afraid to go home or Can not go home should not be criminalized.

End war on drugs through legalization in favor of health care for addiction

This is unscientific gobbleygook.

Clarity over the degree of funding for these programs, prioritizing them to provide actual resources rather than wishes.

The strategies sound nice but I don't see how they will be concretely implemented. Where are all of the "culturally reflective and developmentally appropriate" services coming from? Who's ensuring that community programs actually engage and connect? This is a nice higher level view but I'm still skeptical that anything will actually change unless you put numbers and criteria in to make clear what you expect. No child with non-violent offences should ever enter the legal system.

Lack of parenting is not the fault of the "system". While detention is a last resort, it is still an option. If the parents fail then the kid commits crime. Look at the Tuba Man. Sorry you can't because he is dead because of parenting and system failures.

If we wish to truly achieve racial justice, then the system must be colorblind and fair to all.

These children come from families that clearly not functioning properly. No amount of money will help in any way until everyone in the family becomes stronger, aware of their own power to improve their lives and stops looking to others to solve their problems. They need to be taught how to make better decisions and to see what the consequences of their actions BEFORE making a bad decision.

Recognition that a (fortunately small) fraction of society is sociopathic or psychopathic and virtually immune to preventative intervention. Until we understand the (treatable?) cause of this characteristic, I am not optimistic that any solution other than detention will be effective in protecting innocent members of society.

a) Schools : preventing Law Enforcement from being a solution to class discipline issues. Eliminating zero-tolerance policies that effectively criminalize marginal self-control / being a kid. ("Identifying policies in schools that lead to a disproportionate impact of minority children")

b) Enough emphasis on objective 1a. It's listed as 1 of 15 objective, yet is likely the largest lever here.

c) Any attempt at analysis of which changes are most likely to have the largest impact ... and any understanding of what the costs are to gain that impact.

I think these are great ideas but strongly feel repeat offenders should still be incarcerated. I also feel those who commit violent crimes such as rape, murder, etc should be incarcerated.

I don't think it's missing, but I think a strong emphasis should be put on community involvement with the process. That can range from informing people about how to vote in, or encourage their representatives to instate, laws and statutes that allow better outcomes for youth to actually volunteering on mediation panels or whatever forum is available. We really all need to participate - at whatever level of commitment fits each of us. Thank you for moving this forward - it could not be more important to our future.

This all looks good to me. We need to invest in and support youth at a young age and continue that investment and support throughout their lives, to ensure the best outcome for them, their families, and our community.

You are not addressing the core problems that lead to youth being involved in tough/bad situations.

While this may be out of scope, it is essential to invest in and support marginalized communities from the start, which includes pushing just as hard for racial equity in areas outside of the justice system. Marginalized communities should be given as much policy and financial consideration as well to do neighborhoods, and there should be strict statutes to prevent companies from

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

polluting near them. Real equity means providing everyone with a safe environment where they can grow and thrive. There should also be protections against gentrification and the tactics used to push marginalized people from their communities.

This is more of a small sub-strategy suggestion. I believe for some at risk youth, it can be beneficial to travel outside of their location to experience something vastly different. This could be a trip to Mt Rainier or it could be a trip to the islands. But something that breaks them free from their normal environments so they have a broader perspective of the world. Ideally having youth travel to another country would be ideal but I am certain the costs associated with any of these suggestions would be too much and require outside donors.

Are police departments involved in this reform? Often, police officers are the entry point for youth (particularly youth of color) into the criminal justice system. Thus any approach to these four objectives needs to involve them specifically.

Some of the questions I have are: Will King County police officers be held to the higher standards that would do honor to their profession? Will they be given mandatory racial bias training? Will they be trained how to identify signs of and safely handle mental illness? Will they always be required to have non-lethal options on their person, body cameras, and other accountability measures? If an officer does injure or kill someone in the line of duty, how will their actions be evaluated? What steps will be taken to find racial- and gender-diverse candidates for new officers? Will there be a stricter vetting process for new officers?

I am a White sociology student, and a concerned citizen. I have studied the ways the CJS disproportionately effects people of color, and I believe it is essential to reform our criminal justice system. That being said, please give more weight to what people of color have to say on these reforms, since their communities are more heavily effected by racial bias in the criminal justice system and they will have a better understanding of this issue than I.

Perhaps this is included in Objective #4, but I would like to see more options for adults and community members to volunteer and engage with at-risk youth.

Economic and other stabilizing support for low-income families. The summer meals for kids program is a great example. When kids feel safe and secure, they are better able to make positive choices.

The missing item is some mechanism or program to prevent youth and young adults from counterproductive interaction with adult elements of the population who are likely to "corrupt" impressionable members of the community, youth and young adults among them. The truth is that elements of the adult "living rough" population (homeless or afflicted with mental health issues) are as likely to negatively influence youth and young adults as surely as bad elements of the adult population. It is going to be an uphill battle to succeed in ZYD unless you tackle the challenge from a broader perspective. But it is undeniable that youth and young adults glean bad habits from bad elements in the general population. At the very least, this means zero tolerance for homeless youth and young adults (you need a program to provide - not simply to offer - shelters or homes for all of them).

This is not a police matter but I believe that increasing opportunities for well paid employment for people of all kinds can have a major impact on minimizing the perception and actuality of anti-social behavior. Both parents and children benefit from stable living conditions and the belief in a comfortable future life.

It is important to recognize that racial disproportionality is driven by both discriminatory factors and a higher rate of illegal conduct. Furthermore, there are times when limited detention is an effective way of emphasizing the importance of specific illegal conduct. Therefore it is important to analyze how to use the legal system to provide emphasis, without the long term negative impacts of a criminal record.

Go back to ground zero. Teach civics beginning in grade school. Enforce absolute discipline in every school class. Award teachers based on positive student outcomes. Get rid of teachers who create failure of students. Put disruptive students in a special class with police presence.

Increase the law enforcement capability and effectiveness of gang-related police activity.

Relocate young people with criminal activities from crowded cities to rural controlled-living facilities and get them engaged in productive daily work activities. Release them when they are able to productively work on their own.

There should be more middle options.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Seems to me all of this is just treating the symptoms. Why are these people finding themselves in a position of facing the detention system. Activities, jobs and creating self worth in other individual is going to vastly decrease the number of kids facing such an outcome.

So, this program seeks to give offenders, most of which are repeat offenders, slaps on their wrist with zero consequences for their actions. It used to be parents were directly responsible for the actions of their young ones.. The parents (or lack of parenting) are at the root of the issues with youth and the legal system. Until responsibility is placed back on the parents no amount of feel-good policy changes will make any difference.

The questions do not include considerations for victims and if a violent crime has been committed. Therefore, they cannot be answered completely.

Specific programs to give youth tools with which to deal with emotional, etc., challenges.

strategies that reduce poverty

Unless you're planning on increasing wage gaps, and offering free training to those who are systemically disenfranchised, your words are just pretty ideas. Requiring community-based support without paying those community members will result in more people missing out on work to comply with your demands so their youth (family member, friend, student etc.) doesn't end up in jail and it only worsens the problem. Furthermore, all of these services being offered by a detention center would be the worst idea: it sends the message that targeted communities are still, and more widely, part of the detention mentality - that all must comply and seek help from those who jail them instead of other, less inflammatory parts of the government like Health and Human Services, for instance. Going through the detention center becomes more, not less, of the community identity. I really think you took a wrong turn in allowing people to make money off of incarcerating youths instead of bolstering schools and other programs directly. I applaud the ideas presented, but I wholeheartedly disagree with the detention center being created. Money, efforts, and legislation could've been more effectively spent. Thank you for getting some traction and movement toward equity, but you're doing it the wrong way.

Sometimes youth must be in a secure facility. We need to have that experience function well.

Support of communities themselves to improve the social environments that enable and encourage rebellious youth to participate in illegal/criminal behavior.

Objective 3 should include an explicit proviso such that "youth be diverted from secure detention or, if necessary provide a safe, secure detention facility". Otherwise, many citizens will feel that this program will make them less secure and thus reduce support.

I believe that implementing these strategies for adults would be beneficial across our community as well.

Remove the racism from these plans. Justice should be "blind", and that means if people who are purple commit more crimes, then more purple people will be in arrested and incarcerated. We are all Americans, and the "culture" that we should be protecting and representing is that of Americans. My tax money should not be spent to train or hire people who represent a culture other than that of Americans.

I defer to those more directly involved with and impacted by this work to name further steps that need to be taken, of which I'm sure there are some. I am very encouraged by what I see articulated here. Thank you.

Teaching youth consistently responsibility, accountability and consequences, as well as social interaction, communication, healthy physical activity, also limiting social networking and video games. This has to be done among all races together, learning to respect differences and feelings. Again it's learning to communicate and social interactions.

Investment in jobs for low-income communities so that youth are less likely to wind up in situations where they'll encounter law enforcement/criminal justice in the first place. Not just for previously-incarcerated youth, but for anyone at risk of becoming incarcerated at some point. There need to be enough jobs, or all of these well-intentioned (and awesome) policy ideas will just be band-aids.

Thank you for offering these alternatives. I think they are good ideas. I also believe that there will still be times where detention is necessary for both the public safety and for the safety of the person who is detained. I hope we can make those situations less

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

frequent, and that detentions will be short or temporary. We still need to have a safe place for those times when detention is necessary. The current facility is not safe or adequate. So please make sure there is a safe place for youth detention when necessary, even while we work to make it less necessary. Thank you for considering my comments.

I'd like to see more follow up and results-driven responses. Having a community & diversion first approach is preferable to a punishment first approach, however this could potentially allow repeat offenders to abuse the system without consequences, should the diversionary attempts not succeed. As a community member

I can't think of any gaps. The goals and strategies are general enough to cover a host of items. It will be the forthcoming details that will really help move us toward the goal. I'm assuming the plan will focus on treatment services needed for youth so that they don't need to be incarcerated. (I also hope the health services will improve for adults who are detained.)

These are all great strategies, but hard to evaluate without knowing the tactics that will be used to implement them.

Well, to begin with, probably shouldn't be building a huge, expensive youth jail if the goal is not to jail any youth.

All the "community support" things are a good idea, but this needs to be clarified - concrete plans on what will be available and how it will be funded. You can't just expect the general public to pick up the slack for underfunded governmental services. That is a hugely risky and unstable model - private charities are always at risk of going under and leaving massive gaps in available support and resources.

The system desperately needs to be joined up at all points - go for help at once place, get a concrete path to all the resources you need from ONE place.

More social workers, community workers, etc.

Specialized training for the police. Parts of their jobs are and should be social work and community work and there needs to be a force-wide frame of mind that this is the case.

Reducing youth in detention (and adults in jail) will reduce minorities in detention and jail. This may actually increase disparity. The algorithm currently used by DAJD, if followed by judges, would further increase disparity. Judges often do not follow it which is a good thing.

None of the factors above address failure to appear and the resulting issuance of bench warrants. A significant number of detainees are in the detention center because they have failed to appear, having been previously released. A more robust pretrial release supervision system will increase the appearance rate and reduce incarceration.

The use of the phrase "zero youth detention," while a nice goal, is not helpful since we will never reach that goal and leads people to believe it is possible,, thus increasing opposition to the building of the new facility. The cliché that if there are beds they will be filled is wrong, proved by the current situation in which there are more than 100 beds with generally 50 filled.

The current rule is that DAJD can veto a judge's decision to place a youth on electronic home detention. This is not the case for adults and should not be the case for youth.

Community resources to help the detained youth.

We need to quickly make a plan to reconfigure the new Youth Detention Center to stop the fight over building it to address the concerns with the building that is in progress now. Make the building work in a way that will address protestors concerns, we are wasting time and money that could be making a better youth response.

Must commit to redirecting resources away from incarceration and building a new youth jail to implementing a restorative justice approach. It is dishonest to the community to put forward these Objectives and Strategies while also building the infrastructure to maintain the new Jim Crow.

Achieving the goal will require engagement from institutions other than King County such as cities, schools, etc.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Awareness that one has done something wrong. Personal responsibility. Keeping youth away from bad influences such as gangs and friends who are breaking the law.

Training (sensitivity, racial, etc.) of the peoples handling the children and accountability.

Detention centers should be placed into the neighborhoods of COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY. In other words, every Council Member should be DIRECTLY IMPACTED by his/her decision to have open or closed facilities. The closer to a council members home, the better.

(Same, BTW, for homeless shelters / needle exchange program / freeway expansions / etc. Anything controversial: council members need to lead by example)

BSK (or similar funding) is a big part of this. Work to stop youth detention has to start early and stay involved with at risk families. Assisting struggling parents and single parents by providing supports long before children are getting into trouble is imperative. That's what will create zero detention (in my humble opinion).

There is nothing here about prevention.

This looks great! We need the same ideas for adult mentally ill, homeless and drug addicted. For what we pay for incarceration we could be sinking those funds into support services and stop criminalizing poverty and illness. Thank You

Detention is necessary for some youth and/or for some crimes. I could care less if the youth skips school, and so those youth do not need detention in my opinion. Runaway youth should not be in detention either. Murderers, robbers, rapists, arsonists, and animal abusers all belong in detention while their case progresses. If I or my family, property, pets, or livestock become a victim in a violent crime like noted above, you can bet that youth better be locked up.

Review and repeal laws and regulations that delegitimize authority due to overreach, and particularly that unintentionally over-target minorities.

What is missing is the money to pay for all of the services.

Undiagnosed vision problems, learning disabilities, illiteracy, and mental illness often lead to jail time, and are less likely to be caught and corrected in the lower socioeconomic strata. Identifying and treating those could help reduce incarceration, especially if coupled with positive and long-term engagement like becoming a tutor, refurbishing bicycles, getting a driver's license, or creating podcasts to help move us further toward ZYD.

Provide tutors, mentorships, and internships. Enter people into programs that drive toward success, such as an academic contest or a trade school project or participating in giving public performances of music or improv or plays. These things give purpose and role models and positive feedback and hope.

If your environment, your family, your peer group, don't have the values that keep you out of detention, then you probably won't, either. If the rewards for staying out of detention aren't as great as the rewards for the kind of behavior that puts you into detention, there's not much incentive for a behavior change. If your life is hellish, threat of legal punishment isn't much of a threat, particularly from an overburdened and underfunded system. If we don't figure out how to successfully change the dynamic of the larger picture, we don't stand a big chance of getting ZYD.

If your parents aren't literate, or educated, or employable, they can't help you with those things very effectively. Help the adults and it'll help build the values among the youth.

If I don't feel like I belong in school, or in the success clique, or the mainstream, I'll go find a place where I belong. Gangs are welcoming places. Jails are full of people who look like me. All my friends, all the people I look up to, they will never work at Starbucks or get elected or graduate. Make me feel like I belong somewhere else, and we can talk. Employ my uncle, get my sister a scholarship for doing Shakespeare, let me see my brother build a computer or win an algebra award or something, then I'll believe detention isn't my destiny.

If I see my parents busting their butts every day and getting nothing but chump change and disrespect, the message is that the system doesn't work. If the system is broken, then to hell with it, I'll break the law. If you want to get to ZYD, you need to change

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

that whole setup. Get my dad on a pipeline into Amazon, help my mom start a small business, and then maybe I'll buy into what your society has to offer.

We have lost generations, and we lack the willpower to devote the necessary resources toward fixing them. Put your efforts into affecting social change in preschools and kindergartens and elementary school. Plant the values and interests there that make people like science and the helping professions and contributing toward the good of the community. Make sure the infrastructure is in place to reinforce this message as the kids age--not by people talking about it, but by the kids engaging and benefiting, and by their families getting recognition and kudos and sharing in the benefits.

I think that easily accessible and non-stigmatizing programs beginning in elementary school are an important piece which is not addressed in this plan. This could be as simple as group activities which unveil the hidden messages in society which affect them personally (but done in a fun way!) By the time kids are in middle school/high school, their opinions about themselves are already fixed.

Although this initiative is worthy, I personally believe that it won't be fully effective unless you include building a sound self image at an early age. In my experience, the Boys and Girls Club are a great model of this type of approach.

Thank you.

Accountability by the community. I hear over and over from youth that they have had something to deal with in the system - a diversion for minor offense or something - and they or their parents have not heard anything, have no idea where they stand and have not received any services or done anything to account for whatever they have done. So systems like CAB must have accountability themselves. That is true of school districts also. Follow-up is essential in these matters.

Stop arresting for drug possession.

How are continuous offenders to be treated (including their families who may or may not be providing good support, structure, and the basic teaching of appropriate behaviors)? At what point are prevention and diversion no longer relevant (or how many times do you see the same youth before they do have to be detained/jailed? What about removal of gangs and gang attitudes? How do you pay for all of this?

Equity given to youth in the foster care system who are at a much higher risk of abuse, neglect, loneliness, and other challenges which sometimes lead to criminal behavior. Listening to their concerns and their unique perspectives will decrease the amount of youth crime. Working to fix the broken system as opposed to punishing the children who suffer through it.

If this is an outward facing document, it appears too jargon-y for my taste. For example, the jargon and management speak coup de grace was "Utilize data and technology to optimize connections between legal, community, and services systems." Maybe state this in plain English (and without the words utilize and optimize which give it a cold robotic feel.) That a sentence started "Ensure arrested and detained youth receive trauma..." is also less than ideal. Maybe use hyphens to connect trauma-informed and/or switch the ordering in this list so it isn't read the wrong way.

Objective 1 seems a little bit light to actually achieve a tough goal in eliminating racial disparities in policing. The research I've seen is that culturally reflective staff alone doesn't get you there (even if there are big benefits from it). It will take big structural changes, likely including much greater economic equity. I think the lead with equity goal should be supported by more details.

Another thing missing from this document (and the County's towards zero detention effort) is more acknowledgement that it community pressure that brought King County here. If the County wasn't trying to build a new youth detention center that is facing major backlash would they be here?

More emphasis on the role of parents/grandparents.

Details, as that is where the devil is in. Generalizations sound lovely, but no way to know if they will be effective.

Staff training in implicit bias and how to overcome it.

Staff and community education about institutionalized racism

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Reviewing laws to see which ones affect people more because of poverty and/or housing status, and changing those laws so as to decrease the disproportionate effect on people of color

i don't believe in prioritizing of black and brown youth. i believe that there should be NO children in jails ! period, and that all jails be removed and low income housing be built instead.

and while we are at it, defund Seattle Police department and abolish ICE .

Your desire for my honest opinion. This is a cynical government self-justifying manipulation. A push poll.

the system is too easy on youthful offenders

The primary way to get to zero youth detention is to repurpose the youth and family justice center for meeting basic human needs. The county is committing extensive resources to the same old racist and traumatizing system—instead of finding a new way forward. At this point- it seems like you have co-opted the language of zero youth detention— but you are still planning to lock kids up based on the reformist agenda you've put forward above. The system is the problem— it cannot be reformed or made nicer.

The survey should start with “strongly agree” and not “strongly disagree” I had begun to answer strongly disagree because I have never seen a survey start with a presumptive strongly disagree. I would suggest contacting anyone who only picked strongly disagree to confirm the intent of their responses

More funding for social work

I am worried the justice system won't change to collaborate . They will have to

Change something or sell something to fund changes - this is missing those strategies

Strategy D in Objective 4: Effective -Reduce the recurrence of legal system involvement and increase healthy outcomes for youth mentions aligning with schools, but I really think you should have a completely different Objective 5 that deals with bringing the community into the schools. Too often schools are islands that are seen as separate from the community. Imagine how many young folk would be removed from the Youth Detention if there was mental health, medical care, drug counseling, smoking cessation, comprehensive job and housing help, etc. The issues seems way larger and way more \$\$ than just a brief mention in strategy D.

\*also, I'm not sure you are getting accurate data. You have you scale set up backwards. Most surveys start out with Strongly Agree first and end with Strongly Disagree. You have it backward. I caught myself, but I wonder how many people did not.

This email and survey are very biased, crime is crime (especially violent crime) and public safety from the victims perspective should be paramount above all other SJW concerns. I don't want to live in a Mad Max sequel, and that's where we're headed with this.

Where will the money for #4? I am a retired elementary school teacher and believe me, the road to leading a respectful, law-abiding life must start very young. #1b is an admirable goal but even with training some people just aren't cut out for the job of helping children that come from stressed families from minority cultures, even if that culture is their own. #4 a is going to be really challenging. Having done home visits before the start of school to do my best to understand the cultures of my students and hear the dreams/wishes the parents have for their children, most expressed interest in education at the start of the school year but for some, circumstances interfered with things as seemingly simple as getting their child to school on time, completing homework, answering my phone calls when I had concerns about the student, etc. I hope #4d doesn't mean more inservice and meetings for classroom teachers. Their time is sucked up with enough demands outside of the classroom already.

I don't believe that being of color is the only reason for the dis-proportionality in the legal system. Cultural norms need to change. Promote job opportunity for youth. Provide much more recreational opportunities. Give them a reason to believe in themselves and their future. The bad apples still need to be incarcerated.

I am not seeing anything measures effectiveness of these changes.

How is it determined which youth go to restorative procedures and those for whom restorative procedures are not appropriate?

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

We need a complete change in the entire police and justice system. Police need to be retrained and given incentive to not use force and to treat people with respect. Reward them for diverting from arrest and incarceration.

Also prosecutors are currently the ones with the most power to either prosecute/incarcerate or divert. Our prison industrial complex in the US which has kept African Americans, especially black men as a permanent underclass.

We need to ensure our DAs/prosecutors are acting in a manner that the public wants. The media does not highlight their power or actions.

Jr. High and high school need to be year-round with more hands-on skills based courses: carpentry, metalworking, food production and food preservation. Teach young people to care for themselves, one another, and for younger students. In addition, they need to be taught to be a part of the community as well as to be incorporated into it. They are not the enemy. They need guidance and a good deal of hard work.

The definition of "support," "engage", and "expand"; what resources is the county prepared to invest in the strategies that utilize these verbs? What kind of funding will be allocated to implementing these strategies?

In addition to school and other community resources, art programs (nonprofit, designed for at-risk youth) are very effective at fostering self-reflection, self-expression, and productive emotional outlets that can make a big difference in their lives and futures.

these actions can all be effective for individual system players, but we need culture and system change in those organizations; perhaps that is implicit in these actions but it should be called out more strongly.

Don't think anything is missing, but these are very broad and sometime vague. Having greater specific programmatic suggestions would help make the connections. In general, I think we need to focus more on the social, familial, and economic areas.

Also addressing the problems in the families that may have led the youth to act out.

While objectives are good, the strategies may not be. There is no way to vote on the strategies. Just to ask us to vote on the objective and not on strategy is not meaningful way to conduct a survey.

Making parents accountable. Have them also do community service when there is a lack of effort on their part

Holding people accountable for their actions

Engage the community so that there is more understanding and transparency around these issues and stigma and knee-jerk reactions are not allowed to fester.

Make parents accountable for their children.

Accountability and concern for those victimized by crime.

Build the facility. Lock up the violent youth. System is way too easy on them.

Not all people and not all children are benign. There are many cases where the threat of detention is effective and there are other cases where detention is the only recourse.

But, detention should be the last resort

Those who aim to help, often are simply enabling bad behavior. Regardless of race, all young people need to be held accountable for their actions. Support and programs to redirect are also important, but don't take the place of accountability.

Any thought or intelligence. The more you people (politicians and bureaucrats) try to "fix" racial issues the worse things get. Why don't you just PUNISH illegal behavior and work to reward positive behavior? You know, leave all the racial tags, definitions, and stereotypes out of it. You just sow the seeds for resentment and hate.

Identifying at risk youth and then providing support for their parents to better integrate them into the community and a path to better self esteem through jobs training and counseling.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

There are youths that need to be locked up, and adults too who harass or disrupt the lives of others while pursuing their political agendas.

How about taking personal responsibility for your actions??? If you can't do the time, don't do the crime. I know that is a cliché, but it is very true!!!!

Engage with local business and corporations to support community programs

Evangelize community policing in suburban areas

Cultural sensitivity training for law enforcement

Data collection on poverty and youth incarceration

Tell them what they did wrong. Make them take on responsibility for their action, & hold them accountable.

These words are great, but meaningless if you spend \$210 million on a youth jail. Where can I select an option for "strongly disagree" with building the youth jail.

Strong social safety net for parents is missing. If parents struggle with psychological issues, poverty, homelessness, or are insecure in any of those ways, they may not be able to provide the support you are asking them to for their children and children in their community. Helping adults needs to be part of this plan.

A lot is missing. How can anyone not agree with everything in this survey? Everything you have outlined would be great but then there is reality.

Affirmation that some sociopathic underage offenders will require detention and that such individuals ought not be commingled with the overall jailed population.

I.e., ZERO is unattainable.

There are violent youth that need to be detained to protect the community. They should not be detained with adults.

I have a very hard time completing this objectively after 3 teens killed an officer in Kent because of their behaviors. They need jail time and it needs to be at the same level as an adult. These "kids" are not kids, they just happen to be the age of 15-17. Don't make it easy for teens to work our system and that is what I see here to some degree.

The specifics of how you intend to do this and the projected costs. No mention of truly dangerous/violent youth or even admission that they exist, which they do.

Common sense! This looks to be the same kind of policy that allowed the Parkland shooter to be free to do what he did!

I would love to see a strategy that specifically addresses hiring practices and training of security officers in King County public schools (HPS, SPS, etc). It is critical that people in these positions receive thorough training in culturally responsive practices, trauma-informed de-escalation practices, etc. Unfortunately, disproportionate school discipline plays a huge role in the school-to-prison pipeline.

A viable objective. Zero Youth Detention is not attainable, nor should it be. Rare, maybe, avoided or prevented much of the time certainly. But to think that ZYD is even possible is folly and to pursue it is asinine.

This all sounds great in theory. I have strong doubts that our state and local governmental agencies can achieve these objectives in practice. Local high profile foundations, NGO's, school districts and policing agencies need to get on the same page and work towards solutions.

Parental accountability.

Reduction of single-parent households.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I know this survey isn't meant to be a detailed description of county plans, but I think that I could not answer the questions correctly because I did not have enough information. For example, what does "expand family engagement and connections" even mean? And how does the county propose to do something so individualized? Also, will the role of DSHS be expanded to handle cases that are no longer being sent through law enforcement? I think that, along with concentrated efforts to engage youth in school-related extracurricular activities, will likely have the most effect.

In your introduction to this survey I see that you are intending to discount the input of respondents based on race and age...why? I believe the title of this program is poor at best. I believe in the goals of this program, but I also believe that certain violent and certain repeat offenders can't be included in a zero youth detention program and the title of this program does not reflect that reality.

You need youth detention! If they committ a crime and then they need pay for it.

Individuals need to be held responsible for there actions!

I do not believe there is a racial or legal context to the problems with our youth. It's a matter of teaching (or in some cases, forcing them) to accept personal responsibility for their actions. The real answer is to have mutual accountability in our community. "Mutual" in this context means there is a responsibility of the adults as well to guide/teach and take the responsibility of caring for the youth as much as the youth having a respect and acceptance to what is being taught to them.

Specifics. These all sound like great strategies, but there is no indication of specifically how these will be carried out. How will youth be diverted from the legal system? Which organizations will be used to integrate youth back in to communities? Which currently existing services will receive additional funding? Who will be driving family engagement and connections? How will they be funded?

Instead of "Ensure arrested and detained youth receive trauma informed, culturally reflective, and developmentally appropriate care and services" for strategy c objective 4, "Ensure arrested and detained youth receive trauma informed, culturally reflective, and developmentally appropriate care and services \*\*from therapists on site at the youth detention facility\*\*." Add a specific solution to each strategy. You can frame them as examples if you don't want to pigeon hole yourself.

I fully support the ideas behind this policy, but will not feel confident supporting this specific policy

None of these objectives or strategies require the construction of the Children and Family Justice Center. In fact, the construction of a new detention facility specifically for youth is literally counter to achieving Zero Youth Detention and providing "trauma informed" care and services. Design strategies can beautify space, but they cannot make detention any less traumatic. The space should be reprogrammed for restorative justice, mentorship, and affordable housing, and money should be invested in community-based organizations (Creative Justice, WA-BLOC, etc). Please listen to the community; they have the solutions.

These programs are not holding youth accountable who have previously violated the laws. These proposals sound good and feel good but will most likely result in higher youth crime rates as the youth are not being held to account for crimes committed.

Redirect detention center funding to support the fantastic efforts identified above. FYI, in the case of my daughter, we had resources and the means to access support and services. Additional programs as outlined above could have helped us to keep her off the streets and safer. Affordable (and ideally supported by health insurance), residential programs that would immerse a child who is chronically stuck in behavior damaging actions would have been a desired option. The only emotional growth facilities we found were out of state and very expensive.

There are a lot of proactive measures, which are good, but not much deterrent. Regardless of race, age, or perceived victim-hood there must be clear consequences to actions. I see no consequences to poor decisions in this plan. Even my 3 year old knows there are consequences for poor decisions.

Drug and alcohol treatment. Teen now days smokes marijuana, do drugs, and drinks because they are not being held accountable. Look at how many colored youth are from single parents. That single parent has to work to provide food and shelter therefore there's no time to parent their children let along discipline them. So now the state is responsible to disciple their children then they get into trouble. There are more colored youth in the judicial system is because they commit the majority of the crime, that's the fact. Don't try to sugar coat this.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Appropriate Role models for these kids

The funds were voted to ONLY Build a center for justice for those under legal age, it cannot be used for anything else without a vote.

Creating the impression that punishment will not follow illegal activity will result in more illegal activity.

Early intervention. If the youth are to the point of being arrested it is too late. The youth need to learn to be civil and part of the Community earlier. Unwanted kids from parents who don't care are a bigger problem today. Let's address that issue first.

Punishment for the crimes committed. Molluscating only leaves the youth out in the public to commit more crimes, since they know they won't be punished for committing them.

The liberal politics in this County are getting ridiculous. Just as with adults, as long as there are juveniles there will be juvenile crime and that will never be cured. As long as there is juvenile crime there is a need for juvenile detention and prison to keep the dangerous offenders out of the public in an effort to minimize other victims. This county has unsuccessfully tried many types of diversion and the recidivism rate of juveniles in this county is very high. When juveniles are allowed to get caught 5 or 10 times committing auto theft this is a perfect example of how being nice and trying to give them a hug model doesn't work.

Probably under umbrella of services but job training, strong arts programs (studio art, writing, classes in becoming a dj, recording artist, playwrighting and acting, etc)

These strategies are extremely vague and, as such, are not very useful. What young people at risk need are concrete interventions. Your descriptions are the polar opposite, and are so vague that you could argue they already exist. Or not. For instance, "Align systems (legal, health, human services, schools, law enforcement) through partnership, common goals, outcomes and indicators." What does that even mean? "Aligning systems through outcomes" doesn't mean anything. Let's hear this in concrete language what you mean so that our outcomes are even measurable. Restate each strategy this way: who exactly will take what specific actions for what specific purposes? Who is aligning systems? The government? Case workers? Liaison officers? What systems? What does aligning mean exactly? What specific actions will be part of that, and what specific goals do those actions meet? Each strategy wording needs reformulation along these lines.

Ignore race and punish those breaking the law. You guys are wasting taxpayers money.

It's actually pretty simple. You need to work hard to distinguish between very dangerous people from those who are acting somewhat foolishly. The first group needs to be kept off the streets. The second group, yes the strategies you are talking about might be okay for them.

These questions seem to have little regard for the victims of crime.

Any semblance of rational thought.

Tougher laws that deter crime rather than giving the youth a free pass.

Furthermore, treating youth of color different than white youth is inherently racist and shall not be tolerated. Just because there are more youth of color in trouble with the law does not mean that the laws are racist. It means there is a cultural issue that will not be fixed by treating youth of color with more grace than white youth.

There needs to be accountability. I disagree that we should let youth who commit crimes off the hook. And the reason there are more black kids in detention is because more black kids commit crimes! I believe that some of your objectives could go way too far and allow people to commit repeated crimes due to their age and color.

In objective 1, does policy review include law review? If not, I think it important to review at that level.

For objective 1, it seems there might need to be more steps to educate law enforcement officers and administrators on unconscious bias. It is not just the policies that can be discriminatory, but our socialization as citizens. More accountability needs to be placed on those that relate to the citizens in our community, not just on policies.

### **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Also, to garner support for the ZYD goals, the community itself needs to be educated on why this is necessary. I think progressive policies like these are not intuitively understood by more traditional community members, and facts and data about why incarceration is detrimental to individuals and society should be more clearly promoted through public relations.

There needs to be an acknowledgement that minority youth youth commit a majority of youth crime and all criminal youth should be locked up. The primary purpose of government is to protect its citizens and leaders must remove criminals from society regardless of age or race - a criminal is a criminal. Youth offenders are the most dangerous of all, face minimal consequences, and are usually past any point of redemption with an almost 100% chance to reoffend

As a resident of King County, I could not disagree with this more. This is completely illogical. There has to be punishment for crimes committed. What do you show our children by using their race to avoid punishment? This teaches our children that crimes can be committed on innocent people with no repercussions. People of all races should receive equal punishment. To have a zero youth detention policy is reckless and dangerous. Our youth are becoming more carefree and thus committing more serious crimes. A lot of police interactions end with illegal drugs and guns being found on our teen youth hence the reason they end up in juvenile detention (who by the way already rejects majority of the youth into detention). Zero youth detention is not the answer. Providing community resources and involvement to these children at young ages is what will prevent them from turning to crime as they age.

parenting skills. parenting help and making the parents responsible for kids under 18. The youth are a response to the lack of education lack of parenting, and no interest in anything. That's a parenting and opportunity for a job problem, not law enforcement problem. It's expensive to put your child in any program sports arts etc. so parent don't.

the schools are over crowded and behind in helping children get jobs and turn in work....lack of accountability. The internet has changed the mind of the child and there is no attention span to work it, no reasoning, and more physical ailments as a result. Not enough counseling in the school to stop crime before it starts. But it's not the police's job to educate. It's the parents and schools.

Informed strategies for removing youth from bad family situations. Exploring possibilities of transitioning youth to healthier environments out of the area so they can get a fresh start and get away from negative influences.

Stronger parent interaction and training to divert youth into work programs.

License parents to have kids...they must learn to raise humans...not animals. committed parents...everyone step up. recreational fornication...resulting in pregnancy, could be another murdered child. we must stop this sacrifice. they used to burn infants in sacrifice, now we just murder them invitro and sell their parts. over 60 million. what kind of humans do this? We must value life, teach children how to behave, to not hate, there are 2 reasons we are on earth...to serve and to learn to love. stop the entitled brats early in life...make the world a better place.

This is a racist initiative that will decrease community safety and create incentives to ignore criminal behavior. It is the type of program that led to the recent Florida school shooting by insisting dangerous people be kept out of detention or the "legal system". The "legal system" is the law--if you don't like the law, change it.

Don't do the crime if you can't do the time

As usual, you are missing the point entirely. You're so focused on race, race, race, you are missing the point that there are so many blacks in the detention system because, wait for it.... there are a disproportionate and extremely HIGH number of blacks committing crimes. Jeppers! GET A CLUE!

In my view this is more a socio-economic problem. Children in lower income neighborhoods have less adult involvement and support around positive extra-curricular activities such as organized team sports. They tend to have more unsupervised free time and adult models around them that lure them into undesirable situations. If there is a way to build up community involvement with the local college athletes to lead teams, youth groups or clubs for these students, I believe the supervised structure would help. Beyond this, it's not just coaching resources, it's support resources such as transportation to practices and games, the uniforms, and communication to kids/parents for when/where/time they need to be for practices or games.

# 8 & #9 - I'm not sure what you're talking about specifically...how you intend to reduce youth's involvement with the detention system but it MUST be effective solutions to help them see their mistakes and turn from that behavior whatever it is. What I don't see here is the mention of the culture of disdain for laws and law enforcement that some cultures and some young people have

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

today. The elevation, the esteem of a "gangster" culture as well as single parent households is at the root of this problem. If those things are not addressed, youth criminality will continue no matter how "fair" we try to be.

Democracy. Forcing personal agendas down people's throats with no say.

Unless I missed it I didn't see attention to the importance of being knowledgeable about and responsive to the different needs of boys and girls and special needs of non-binary and transgender persons within the justice systems.

This survey is skewed toward one agenda, keeping criminals out of jail. Laws need to be enforced to keep citizens of our community safe, there have been youths killing each other in Burien with no consequences.

These policies are in line with the ones that led to the Parkland school shooting. Do not overlook actual problems in order to try and satisfy an outrage mob. They will never be satisfied, even when presented with evidence their outrage is misplaced.

accountability for youth crime!

This is a very strong roadmap. Community support will be vital, so I'd like to see some strategies for educating community members who do not know much about the juvenile justice system and helping them buy in to this plan and get involved in being part of a supportive community.

What happens to repeat youth offenders? Do communities have to wait for these troubled youths to age into the adult system? There needs to be more family involvement, counseling and accountability if there will be leanant consequences for troubled youths. Also, where are programs like this thriving? I want to see results before we open the flood gates to youth crime in King County.

Personal accountability for ones' actions, that's what!

A solid plan to transition from what is now to a truly positive way to treat and help kids constructively integrate themselves into communities.

There needs to be a youth detention center for teens who break the law, family counseling, therapy are extremely helpful and should be put in place with dentention.

Does any of this specifically target working with the school system to reduce the incidence of detention and referrals of students of color to the judicial system? Stopping the school-to-prison pipeline needs to incorporate the beginning of that cycle, and give schools both the training to respond to students in crisis in ways other than detention, and the resources to offer or refer these students to mental health, addiction, supplemental learning, or other resources to address the root issues of the problem behaviors.

Offer pathways to youth who need to be in housing in a safer/more supportive environment than before.

An equity plan that's written in language the average youth would understand. Skip the legalese and complex sentence structure!

I think that the biggest problem that we would face in enacting ZYD is just the inherent problems of living in the greater Seattle area now. Increased drugs, homeless encampments, families that must have dual income just to survive, etc. All these issues are in the face of our youth and send them a very mixed message about what a productive life should look like. They are left to their own devices at a time when they are vulnerable and easily persuaded to do things that could get them into trouble. Saying that we will support the families so that the youth then feels supported in turn is a lovely sentiment...but I don't see how that is even possible in our current political climate and budget crisis. I am all for this initiative and hope it succeeds!

Missing is the admission that youth incarceration is still necessary irrespective of all the policy goals stated above. Some in society will never respond accordingly to all that the County could provide as there are unfortunately folks who cannot be saved. The County needs to address that reality.

LOGIC.

What's missing here is logic. If someone breaks the law they should be held liable for their crime.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Father figurehead is missing in many families and there is no mention of engaging the services of nonprofit or religious organizations in the plan. We have taken God out of the equation and that's the primary reason for the problem in the first place.

What you all forget here is having policies in place that bring discipline to our society as a whole is a good thing. It is a deterrent to future decisions and helping society as a whole make better choices.

Criminal youth need to be responsible for their actions. Their parents are already checked out, releasing them to checked out parents won't fix the problem.

The root cause of this problem is the culture of these childrens' and teenagers' families, which fails to support respect for the law, respect for school and education, and a work ethic. I don't really understand what these programs will do to mitigate that problem. Seems to me that these initiatives tend to

ignore the cause and imply that somehow this is the fault of society. And certainly there is no unanimity among Seattle citizens that zero detention for serious crimes is desirable.

Consequences for actions

I don't believe in ignoring bad behavior. Kids need to know that the adults mean business or they won't change their behavior. There must be accountability.

Any recognition of the recent criminal activities by youth in Kent which led to the death of Officer Moreno and should be addressed by dealing with the perpetrators as adults, incarcerating them (after conviction) to prevent them from doing similar things as adults in the future.

Emphasis on PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY for one's behavior!

There is not enough information to understand whether these measures will be effective, and what is missing is the services you want to divert detained youth into. There is no detail at all about those programs and services.

The underlying reason for youth detention is the extreme need in teens to feel included and valid. I believe that teens really need to be engaged in their communities at a much higher rate than they are now. Work, public service, teams, athletics and learning are all ways for youth to be engaged. I understand that these are expensive. Also, I really feel that recruiting diverse law enforcement is a good path forward.

What can we do to prevent the infraction. Giving them a slap on the hand will do nothing to deter the problem. We have seen this over and over. Kids don't have anyplace to go without criticism from adults. As a young person we had a lot of things to keep us busy that didn't cost money. Now this is not possible.

For clarity there needs to be clear distinction between violent and non-violent offenses. The wording is far too vague to garner much enthusiasm or support.

your entire premise is illogical and dangerous

So, just a question or two...regardless of race (although this planet only has one race--human, the others things such as color are constructs people have placed) why should the person (of any color, gender or whatever) who commits a crime not have any consequences? If I put my finger on the glowing charcoal briquette, I get burned, and the burn is the consequence, by which I learn not to do that again. If I rob a store & get caught, the consequences should be commensurate with the crime. If I cause bodily harm to another, there should be consequences (I do not mean we should harm the person, but there should be a consequence). While I believe that strong families and strong communities can "ASSIST" in helping young people learn and turn out to be better, I am also fully aware that there are too many dysfunctional families out there that are not helping their young people and do not have the ability to do so. I am also very aware that the state/county/city trying to be the 'parent' to the young people is going to cost a bucket of money. You cannot continue to lay the burden of all society's ills on those who are paying taxes which keep getting higher and higher. The systems are broken. Fix the systems first, be clear, transparent, and have a line of accounting for what you think is going to help fix the problems first; then proceed.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Barring a youth from ever being tried as an adult. If a violent offense is committed, defaulting to the adult system should not be an option.

These questions are rigged to provide the answer that the County wants: To "prove" by way of their biased survey that the populace is in agreement with their objections.

Well played, King County. Well played.

The actions of youth are continuing to become more violent and more willing to commit various property crime. While appropriate steps need to be taken in the course of the legal system, simply bypassing the system and a slap on the wrist is no answer either. Repeat offenders need to face the consequences of their actions - whether their community appreciates the system or not. Skewing and misrepresenting the data does not resolve the issues. Several advocates have reduced their value to the community to that of data abusers. These 'professionals' and 'advocates' need to also be called out and REMOVED from influencing the legal system at all levels. Where appropriate, these professionals and advocates need to also be accountable to the system the the broader community.

You appear to be aiming for equality of outcome vs equality of opportunity. Your first example talks about white youth being arrested less than black youth. Are all other factors equal? The crime, the criminal history of the youth, etc? Cause at face value you are painting a pretty broad picture with little context.

Accountability and responsibility of agencies to report on recidivism and success. I do not see fact based arguments but feelings arguments on why this would work. More transparency on cost and resources needed would also help.

Start earlier: engage new parents with community support re: safe and affordable daycare, jobs to raise them out of poverty, educate toward good parenting, support them in parenting, good community services for young parents as well as youths

Any youth of any color should face the consequences of any crime that is committed.

Family is a huge factor. My brother was estranged and homeless when he got into trouble. Now that he's back with our family, he is a better person. Meaningful work is also important. He has a job which means the world to him. Providing work opportunities to troubled youth gives a sense of purpose.

This survey is very unclear. Lots of big flowery words being used to try to lead respondents to some desired outcome. As worded, this survey appears to be a giant waste of taxpayer resources.

Youth who commit crimes should be put in jail to protect the public. Especially those who commit murder like the youth who killed the tuba man. To think that we don't need a youth jail is unrealistic. I don't understand the protest against the youth jail. We simply cannot let dangerous youth back onto the street to commit more murders, rapes and crimes. If we do so then we will be a magnet for youth criminals from all over the country to come here just as our drug policy has filled the streets of Seattle with homeless druggies.

Teenagers who commit crimes against society need accountability for their actions. When youths are not held accountable for their actions they seek the path of least resistance and in many cases snub their noses at attempts to correct their distorted thinking/actions & place blame on everyone and everything around them rather than to accept that they broke the law.

Some of these strategies are unrealistic & probably don't have the resources to make them effective.. Community & family involvement, deferment, counseling, etc. clearly is effective as opposed to incarceration for many youth.. However, too many are just plain bad, angry & will just try to get away with whatever they can.. They frequently come from broken home & community situations.. Thus, for many incarceration is necessary to protect the public

If you break the law or harm or are a threat to the public there have to be consequences and punishment otherwise we negate our laws, and if the crime committed requires detention is necessary and rehabilitation necessary prior to return to yhe community

If the kid committed a crime, he/she must be held accountable. Secure detention or not, the youth must have consequences for their actions.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

How are you going to fund this? How are you going to recruit train and maintain the level of professionals needed to accomplish this.

Perhaps included in strategy a but what is needed is stronger family support. This would included measures to help families stay together. Encouragement of dual parenting situations and less encouragement of single parent ones. Coaching and training that would promote better discipline as well as nurturing within the home. In other words, classes or training on how to be a good parent!

What exactly is a "community based response?" Who is "the community" and who formulates a "response?"

You have missed the point that far too many of our incarcerated youth have been involved in either crime or lived in homes with it for years before they ever commit a crime . By the time they get to their pre-teen and teen years, they are seasoned and skilled. If you don't deal with the family in a preventative manner, you will never solve this problem. Our society doesn't work with prevention, so this can't succeed. Whether you like it or not, there are dangerous youth that require detention for the safety of themselves and others. I've seen this first hand. This is not kids skipping school! These are teens that commit serious adult crimes but are not yet adults legally!

Most children who get in trouble have a terrible family life. Releasing them to family supervision doesn't help, only allows them to commit more crimes. They need accountability for their actions, not release to their dysfunctional families to allow them to continue their bad behavior!

The \$100M of funding y'all spent building a jail.

Evidence that these strategies are effective in reducing crime, recidivism and risk to the community.

Sometimes it is necessary to remove young offenders from the context in which they have become young offenders. Don't see why this is wrong. A break from their family circumstances can be just what they need.

Good parenting and personal responsibility

connection and cooperation with schools particularly in prevention and re-engagement of youth and one-on-one mentoring programs.

Punishment should fit the crime regardless of age

Unclear to me to what extent these strategies include the necessary elements of (1) training for police officers regarding inherent bias and efforts to reduce disproportionate effects of policing policies, and (2) sentencing guidelines and the need to avoid mandatory minimum sentences.

We need to hold individuals responsible for their choices and actions.

1) What is missing is the frank acknowledgement that minorities tend to commit legal infractions at a greater proportion than whites, and that impacts, if not entirely explains the racially disproportionate interactions with law enforcement.

2) I agree that strengthening families will do much to help, but this cannot be imposed from above; it must happen organically within the community to be lasting and effective.

The acknowledgment that equity does not include equality. Making sure that we target at risk youth and families at the earliest possible stage is equity, and should be the focus. Making sure but at risk youth attend strong schools and have strong youth programming is equity. Getting rid of unions so that poor performers and those that don't embrace diversity are dismissed is a good step.

Simply stating that more African-Americans or Hispanics are incarcerated than whites because of racism is ignorant. It's because they live in poverty. It's because many lack two parents. Lessening the ramifications of crime is going to increase crime, not decrease it.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Compare our crime rates to any other country that uses capital punishment. I'm not advocating that, but clearly a soft approach isn't working.

I'm tired of hearing people in the community constantly blaming everyone else for their children's run ins with the police. People need to take care of their darned kids from the start!

So again. All intervention activity should be concentrated when they're still good and teachable. Once they turn out to be a criminal, get them off the street so they don't taint all the other kids.

Jobs

If my child does something wrong or illegal, I discipline them. If there were no repercussions for subversive actions a minor never learns that this wrong and not accepted and will lead to more of the subversive actions. These policies will only lead to more crime and criminals roaming the streets free to subvert the rights of law abiding citizens.

Zero youth detention should not be a goal period. This entire program is misinformed. Furthermore, the policies suggested here (trying to eliminate 'racial disproportionality') are racist themselves - you should not set quotas of any kind (either for detention or hiring) that are based on race/ethnicity. There need to be consequences for crimes, period.

Definition of when Youth Services efforts have failed and legal / judicial intervention is necessary.

Concentrate on safety of taxpayers and not on your political goals!!!

Personal accountability and deterrents by holding youth and parents responsible for their own actions.

Parent involvement

Please explain with exact data about what King County has done in the last five years in regards of this situation and what was the investment vs outcome. Please also provide estimation of budget increase to adopt any of the objectives and where would the money come from.

Accountability. Every person has the right to succeed. That is the American dream. It does not matter what race you are or what community you live in, if you want to take advantage of your opportunity, you will succeed. If you choose, and it is a choice, to break the law, you need to be held accountable for your choice. If that means incarceration, so be it.

As I read almost daily about serious crimes committed by young people in our area, I can't help but wonder what consideration is being given to the safety of all county residents.

Raising youth without consequences is child abuse.

Are there opportunities for volunteers to assist in youth support?

Financing

If you do the crime, regardless of your background you should do the time. If one race is not held accountable fix the system, don't make others unaccountable because data shows only what the data collector wants.

The term "Divert" is a problem. There are other vague concepts as well such as what current policies are racist. When you say divert.... do you mean youth can run wild, commit crimes and then we as the community put up with it? I have no idea what you really mean. Too vague.

I see so many youngsters in my neighborhood from broken homes. They have few role models. How about an effort to maintain families? How can churches play a role? There are many families of color and mixed who are trying their best to raise their children in an environment that can be so hard. These families set a positive tone in our diverse neighborhoods. If these proposals result in violent youth attacking those people then the families will leave those neighborhoods for more family-friendly places, and the diverse neighborhoods will continue to decline. It will be like Detroit, a place my own mixed family left because of the decline.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

What are the main crimes resulting in youth detentions? Do you understand why they are being committed? How do you prevent those? What is the impact to crime victims if criminals aren't jailed/punished?

The focus should be on high risk families from birth on. This should not be a race issue, as there are many juvenile offenses who are not a minority race. To wait until a juvenile commits a crime to get involved is reactive not proactive. In addition this is not a perfect world, so should a juvenile commit a violent (murder, attempt murder, rape) crime are you proposing that they be housed with adult criminals? Or are you suggesting house detention? Which being at home didn't work in the first place.

Youth need to learn consequences for their actions

I don't want youth who are arsonists, murderers and rapists on the street. They need to be locked up for a very long time. There seems to be more focus on the rights of the criminal than the rights of the victim and their family. . What about the "tuba man"? The youth that assaulted him was given one break after another by the legal system, and he continued to reoffend. We all have to live in society together. There should be one set of laws for all of us, regardless of our cultural heritage. I think troubled youth should have their own "jail" to keep them away from the adult population. While incarcerated, they are kept away from bad influences. Have medical professionals, counselors, family and educators help get them back on track, if possible. We have to accept that some of these violent youth will offend again. We have to keep society safe.

Extensive trauma therapy like EMDR and Somatic Experiencing/Transformation, Organic Intelligence and other methods that actually work to neurologically heal trauma. Kid in the judicial system have high ACES scores and that needs to be addressed.

Accountability to victims. I'm all for every objective as long as there is a concerted effort to protect others, especially other youths.

I'm not sure I see where learning to see the police as people rather than "the enemy" is addressed. Kids, especially teens, are programed to resist so seeing police and other folks as positions of power rather than friendly people seems to encourage their misbehaviors. I think this is especially true given the historically bad interactions between police (even police of color) and people of color. The videos of today are hopefully going to clean the misbehavers out of the police but too many folks expect police to react badly which is the other half of that equation. Having frequent interactions with the "people who wear a uniform" rather than with the "office of police" would seem to be a huge part of this. I really wish we could get police in schools not as a safety officers but as a community counselors who helps the kids and families of the school. I would HAPPILY pay more taxes to fund this.

Common sense. It's great to get involved with youth and provide counseling / alternatives to incarceration - for MINOR offenses. When these asinine policies result in violent / repeat offenders getting off, it's repulsive and leads to worse crimes (SEE PARKLAND). You seem to want to have equality of outcomes - i.e., your 'stats' should reflect equally by race. You're not the brightest - and probably racist if you hold that view, as you are trying to create a false equality of outcome rather than focusing on equality of opportunity.

These policies are a failure everywhere they are tried, and only allow vapid ignorant politicians to quote meaningless stats about youth incarceration while crime gets markedly worse and victims voices are completely ignored. It is shameless, ignorant, and morally bankrupt.

1. Equal treatment for criminals and their victims regardless of skin color. 2. Concern for the victims. These policies prioritize assailants, thieves etc. over the vulnerable people they repeatedly victimize. Why aren't you asking why the crime rate is significantly higher among youth of color if you actually want to make a difference in reducing youth incarceration? Do you have such low expectations for young men of color that you think they are incapable of not committing crimes?

Very early identification and evaluation of at risk children in at real families and strong parental support and education from pre-pregnancy onward. Youth with a bad start are very disadvantaged and most don't catch up or break out to be mainstream citizens. Get young people into educational plans that will provide self respect and a living wage. We need more nurses, engineers, and programmers etc. The lure of money from ill gotten gains should be eliminated through proper programs aimed at individual success as a good citizen.

Competence.

connection with mentors. Connection with nature. Connection with Spirit. Connection with the Wonder and Awe.

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

All of these proposals are remarkably naïve.

The biggest factor in determining whether youth commit crimes is the lack of a father in the home.

The answer is INTACT NUCLEAR FAMILIES.....NOT government programs.

The family environment is to blame and families either work too much or not at all and children learn what they live. The families won't participate either way

More involvement of the educational system to make youth more aware of the laws and the legal consequences.

I think that not mentioning the need to incarcerate or accept the juvenile into the legal system you are omitting something. It makes this a one sided survey at least from reading and answering the forgoing material. This will have a negative impact with some survey responders. Due to circumstances you must recognize that nothing is perfect and that there will be young person cases that cannot be solved with a Zero program.

More work with the family of origin to prevent youth detention. Family support workers in EVERY school.

We will always have a need for detention of violent youth, particularly in a large city environment with marked homelessness, drug, and poverty issues. This type of program may help some detainees, but others will take advantage of/manipulate the system and not benefit. Period. I based this on the fact that juveniles commit similar violent crimes as adults (albeit at a lower rate) and my experience working in corrections.

Please treat all youth equally. Our grandson in diversion is white. We would hate to see him treated more harshly because he is not a person of color or under privileged. When I was a kid in the 50's, music, tv, etc were much more conservative but the police were more liberal and understanding.. If they showed up at a party, which they usually did, they just sent everyone home. Now they arrest kids for things we all did .....even they did, most likely. With a criminal record there are so many doors permanently closed. Forever. Please respect that. An arrest can ruin a kid's life.

On the other hand, it is very hard to find good, accessible treatment for drugs and alcohol. I know. Our local insurance sent our grandson to California for treatment. That's shameful for Washington.

This is backwards thinking and has caused the larger problem. 1) Stop focusing on race, it is racist. 2) Start by building up the families. 3) Then engage the youth in the community. 4) Work towards decreasing detention. The outline above will lead to larger problems and no solutions.

Stop seeing race and start seeing individuals. Hold individuals accountable. Stop stereotyping. Stop your racial profiling.

More early preventative contact to attempt to engage youth before they have any a contact with law enforcement.

Consequences for actions. Personal responsibility. Focus on the victims and less on the criminals.

If they do the crime, they should do the time. Stop enabling them.

Strong secure lockup facilities are needed.

We also need more law enforcement officers with darker skin color, more with councilor background instead of war fighting background. "Good guys" that these at risk youth can look up to, identify with and not be distrustful of.

What is missing is your foundation. Apparently you care more about keep criminals out of detention (aka Zero Youth Detention) than you do in preventing the crime to begin with. This entire project is geared toward keeping juveniles "of color" out of detention. I am all for helping communities keep young people (of all colors) from becoming criminals, and helping them develop into happy, healthy, productive adults. That should be the goal. The county should work to keep all citizens in King County safe. You are working on closing the barn door after the cow has gotten out.

You're missing recognition of the fact that rotten parents frequently raise rotten kids and good parents infrequently raise rotten kids. Sorry, but rotten kids who break the law are often best put into jail to protect the public from their rotten, illegal actions. Race has nothing to do with it.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Eliminate the plans to build a youth jail. Create restorative justice plans at all levels. Involve youth face to face with victims (not necessarily of their crime, depending on victim's choices); the human consequences of crime need to be understood. Involve churches as well as government and human services etc. Eliminate criminal actions on victimless crimes; make the consequences logical, swift, and related. Create education, community service and financial alternatives. For example, drug possession might result participating in and later in paying forward into rehab programs. American Friends Service Committee has some effective programs in youth justice issues.

Utilize evidence based practices to identify youth and involve family to make lasting changes

We need to s

Tart services with the first contact between the youth and authority, wether with school or law enforcement. The severity of the crime still has to determine if incarceration is required.

"Zero youth detention" is inaccurate and unattainable. I wholeheartedly support the basic goals of proportional cultural and racial representation. To call it "Zero..." is an oversimplification. There will always be a need for a variety of justice system tools to respond to criminal activities. Hopefully detention is only one of, and the last on a spectrum of tools available to society. "Representational Justice" would be more accurate.

These goals must be met with appropriate levels of funding. This funding could be obtained from halting the construction of the new detention facility and immediately reducing the current population using some of the above strategies.

These may be helpful in some cases, and there need to be wholistic alternatives to incarceration. However, my younger brother blames his troubled life of crime on his belief that he was not disciplined enough; our strong family with great community connections gave him every opportunity yet he believes that hurt him. Incarceration as a last resort needs to remain an option.

These kids need to be held accountable for their actions. If they shoplift, run away from home, use/deal drugs, etc., they need to know someone is holding them accountable. Not getting the police involved tells them it's OK to commit crimes. My son thinks the legal system is a joke. Community services had no impact on his behavior, and we tried everything from Wraparound and CPS to private counseling and group counseling. Early intervention (first offense = consequences) is a must. Otherwise the whole system becomes a joke to these kids. If a law is in place then it needs to be enforced.

Ensure public schools are amply funded in accordance with our state constitution and enhance definition of basic education to include full time nurses and counselors in every school. Ensure teacher salaries are competitive and class sizes are reduced, so SPS might recruit and retain teachers of color.

This is a ridiculous survey! The premise of "Zero youth detention" is completely unrealistic. Rather than spending money and effort on a panacea, focus on improving programs and education that focus on reducing youth crime. Failing to do that and removing the consequences if one were to commit a crime, is literally one of the most asinine ideas to come from King County! Stop wasting my money of this and do some real work to improve the problems that lead to youth crime.

There is an unspoken assumption here that everyone in the county agrees with the ultimate goal of Zero Youth Detention. This might be an accurate assumption if we could also reach a goal of zero crimes committed by youth. I think if the survey had asked the question whether respondents agreed with that goal, you might be surprised by the number of people who don't agree with the goal. Certain behaviors require harsher consequences than just counseling and community service. Just as there are certain crimes by adults that merit their removal from the public for a time (to protect the public), I believe that there are also certain behaviors in youth that are just as serious and merit time away from the public as a consequence. When administered fairly, this can be a deterrent to repeating that behavior and entering a lifetime of interaction with the criminal justice system. I believe that the lack of this type of consequence is what contributed to the school shooting in Florida.

The language and vocabulary in the survey is very hard to understand. Who wrote these items? Not good. Sounds like a preachy liberal who is talking down to the peons. Re-write this survey.

Minor children need strong parental guidance and control. Preteens and teen age children need to be more strictly supervised by the parents and should be subject to curfew restrictions. Seeing children, and they are still children until they reach legal age, out walking, in groups, on the streets at 11 PM to 5AM need to be home where the parents can assure they are safe. I very strongly feel

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

that a curfew needs to be imposed and enforced. Violators of the curfew should see their parents detained. I strongly feel that 90 percent of today's problems begins with unattentive parenting'

Government needs to enforce common sense laws, not raise our children. Government can never be 'family' or do the job of a parent. Parents need to 'parent' and stop blaming government and school systems, expecting them to raise the child. Finally, no parent or child is perfect. Every individual has freedom of behavioral choice. Some people choose to make bad choices a career. Being soft on youth crime is a bad choice and always has been based upon what we have sown to date.

My level of agreement on some strategies in some questions varies. Therefore, I cannot respond with full accuracy. This survey really needs to be expanded for separate responses.

A slap on wrist is not effective consequences. Appropriate consequences for poor choices is critical. Without consequences, there is no deterrent. I'm sick of criminals playing victim card. "Oh, it's not their fault". Doesn't help anyone to take responsibility for their actions... period.

The process must reinforce the principal that your actions are your responsibility and that actions that harm others have consequences.

Any information on how the policies will be implemented.

you do the crime ... you do the time

You have missed the mark in expressing the assumption that zero is a good thing. Many believe zero reflects lack of youth accountability and the opening statements assume all will agree right off the bat.

You can lead a horse to water but can't make it drink. Just because you offer these services does not mean the youth or their family will use them. What then?

This sounds like the Promise Program in Parkland High School in Florida that led to a school shooting because law enforcement was not allowed to enforce the law. It's not the student's fault, right? What happened to teaching personal responsibility and that actions (good or bad) have consequences.

Nowhere in any of the above does it call for holding ALL youth responsible for their actions.

Strategies that appropriately acknowledge the need for some children of every race to enter into the legal system and be placed in detention due to the severity of offenses. Strategies that determine what policies should be enacted to replace those being phased out. Strategies that acknowledge the need for and ensure community members' safety while attempted to reduce child detentions and make them more equitable. Strategies to ensure that policies to address inequitable race considerations in detention of children are not reduced to number-based solutions or equations, like quotas or minimums/maximums.

Promote job opportunities and mentoring

Thank you for making zero detention a priority!

Provide better training for police so that they do not automatically arrest (or shoot!) young men of color for things that young white men would simply get a warning over.

Our public schools have failed in educating people of color for generations. Therefore, it is now a cycle and will not be corrected by addressing the youth problem without stepping back and addressing the problem of the adults in their lives. There needs to be education beginning at pregnancy and connecting pregnant moms and their husbands with the right resources from the very beginning of their child's life. Waiting until a child is in the education system is a problem in and of itself of waiting too late.

Community based safety housing. A place for youth who may need time between having been found doing something illegal, and going back to a home that is potentially non-supportive/condoning behavior.

Parenting. Parents need to be held accountable for their children. Does it surprise anyone that cultures that openly celebrate criminality results in criminal behavior?

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

You did not give me the option of saying whether or not I agree with the objectives and strategies. Some strategies are inappropriate or will be ineffective. I think that 'youth' needs to be defined as up to age 15. I think that 16-17 year-olds should be tried as adults when they commit crimes. I think your preventative measures need to take place in elementary school and middle school, but once a teen reaches high school, if they commit crimes, the consequences need to be more serious. Also, you are talking about youth thriving in their family settings, but unfortunately, often, the problem lies with the family. The youth would often do better being removed from their families and put in a safer place, like foster care (which is understaffed and often ineffective). And lastly, I think you need to rename your ZYD because it is creating a lot of anger and it is mis-leading. I realize that it is a 'vision' but people think it means that youth won't have to experience any consequences if they commit a crime, and in light of recent crimes, this is making people angry. Instead, you should name it something that doesn't focus on the youth (because people don't care) but on the fact that it will result in safer communities through prevention (which, politically-speaking, is something that people do care about). The new name should express this idea: preventing youth crimes before they start and saving money in the process. In order to get more support, you need to emphasize the fact that spending money on prevention saves money because jails are more expensive, and then when they get released, they often re-offend, so they are back in jail, which is expensive. Good luck. I don't disagree with what you're trying to do, but I think your marketing needs to be better, and you need more case studies or examples to explain to people what you mean. What they are hearing is not what you thought they would hear.

This is a HORRIBLE survey. It assumes the County-adopted policy is the correct one, and that any right-thinking person would agree with the county's policies. The objectives and strategies are replete with platitudes rather than constituting real requests for honest input and feedback.

Crime should result in punishment.

For serious offenses, detention is a necessary and fitting consequence. An arbitrary zero detention goal does not take into account all circumstances which may make detention an acceptable short-term response to criminal activity.

ACTIONS MUST HAVE CONSEQUENCES. "Zero" indicates a goal of no consequences which promotes risky behavior.

Accountability

Accountability on law enforcement, more in depth screening of law enforcement and social media policies regarding racial biases or involvement with racially prejudiced groups, ie White Nationalist Organizations (KKK, traditionalist workers, proud boys, etc) and harsher penalties for proven racial biases for law enforcement, prosecution and defense, and judges. Emphasis on social workers, increasing number of available and keeping caseload per social worker low.

Use data to identify characteristics of families whose children are most likely to end up in youth detention under today's system. Work backwards to provide those types of families/youth with supportive programs (child care, parenting classes, preschool, help navigating school or social support structures) etc

Actual punishment for violent crimes is missing from this equation. Youth today see no repercussions for their actions and the law abiding citizens shouldn't be subjected to the failures of our criminal justice system.

Must understand that there are youth who will murder, rape and assault and these youth need detention

In keeping with the current trend of the ridiculous "Everybody gets a trophy" and "It's not my fault, it's \_\_\_\_\_" we are removing INDIVIDUAL responsibility for ones self and replacing it with a notion that instead of your problem behavior/actions being under your INDIVIDUAL control, they are somehow societies fault and societies problem to fix. This will NOT culminate in these individuals becoming strong/independent adults. It will only strengthen the current misguided and dangerous narrative that you are not in control, nor responsible for your own success/failure, society is. Let's teach these kids about PERSONAL responsibility early so they can learn there is a cause/effect to their actions and they are ultimately responsible for their successes AND failures. Enough of this deflecting and stripping our youth of the power they hold as an INDIVIDUAL. I cannot disagree with this ridiculous survey enough.

If someone commits a crime, we must do the time. I did, and it changed my life.

Absolutely nothing

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

There is no mention of behavior. Yes, the legal system is a last resort, but we still need it. If someone's behavior requires legal intervention, then so be it. We don't want bad behavior to increase because of a lack of appropriate consequences.

Clear guidelines for describing when a "youth" presents a danger to the community, and an appreciation that some kids will require legal intervention and incarceration for the good of themselves and the community. You're a bit disingenuous if you think you can avoid arresting any kids, and that in itself is dangerous for the taxpayers if that's truly your goal.

How about encouraging parents to stay together and raise their kids properly? Maybe read to them and encourage them towards success. Maybe look at putting positive male role models around because most of these kids who end up in jail crave a strong male presence and find it in criminals instead of productive members of society.

commit a crime, go to jail. why is this hard?

I believe that KC is heading in the wrong direction with the starting statement, that you are arrested due to your color and not your actions. This survey is slanted to say lets not incarcerate or detain individuals based on race, but then lean toward the community to fix the family issues that have led to the youths criminal activity that led to the arrest or detention. Is the general public responsible for the family not raising the kids? If you commit a crime you should be held to the letter of the law white, black it does not matter to me.

If a youth breaks the law there needs to be legal consequences, after that is applied then and only then a second chance should be given

I see the key point is family engagement. In many cases the families are dysfunctional, as are the communities the family's exist in, and are the root cause of difficulty for these kids. 77% of black children are born to single moms. 49% of Hispanic, 30% of Caucasian. So diverting them back to broken families in broken communities I'm afraid may be a recipe for failure. I'm not saying give up, this is important. I am saying I don't see a full solution here - yet.

This initiative is severely flawed. You've made an assumption that the respondents support a Zero Youth Detention program. This is absolutely a failed endeavor. How about "backing up" and conducting a survey of the citizens regarding their opinions of how youth offenders should be managed. I'm confident that such a survey would overwhelmingly show that the citizens of King County do not support a zero youth detention initiative. When parents, families and communities fail to deter criminal behavior by youth, an authority must step in to course correct and manage behavior modifications. Youth detention and rehabilitation (by professionals) is a must for repeat or serious youth offenders.

Regarding the survey, given the spelling and grammatical errors within, I can't believe this is even a legitimate survey from King County. If this is a legitimate KC initiative, the county council and leadership need to be voted out and replaced with representatives that actually speak for the citizens. The time has come for the quiet masses to take back the city, county and western half of the state so that stupid initiatives such as this don't make it beyond the brainstorming stage...

This idea sounds like what led to the Parkland school shooting, where troubled youth was kept out of the legal system and he ended up becoming a school shooter. Ideas like this end up causing warning signs to be ignored. It has a noble purpose, but is fundamentally a very bad idea.

Expand family engagement and connection. Sounds great, that's a key element to the problem. You can't just wave that magic wand, though certainly encourage ideas to help make it happen.

We need more, not less, deterrents to crime. By not enforcing basics acts of criminal behavior makes it worse, not better. Without consequences to committing crimes, makes city more dangerous and less safe.

Request this basic fundamental fact not be forgotten in this utopia master plan.

Thanks for taking time to read my comments.

Let me tell you some propaganda: the PROMISE Program of Obama in high schools is a FAILURE and people have died from it. The above program seems to copy that so don't be insane and repeat the same failure(s)

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Educating old white people on how small, progressive steps can help our youth, of all colors, to succeed and continue building wonderful, inclusive, united, and diverse communities in King County for many years to come.

Only feedback is that this is too simplistic of an approach. There has to be distinction between violent crimes/offenders and non-violent. No society is going to accept that we should simply take a murderer/rapist and not demand severe punishment & detention to separated that individual from the rest of the community. However, that juvenile deserves to receive proper services while incarcerated to provide them the opportunity for a successful reintegration to the community.

This survey pre-supposes the survey taker agrees with no youth detention. I completely disagree with that stance for violent and sex-based crimes, as well as weapons possession.

Moratorium on Youth Jail construction plan. People don't want to see tax dollars for detention buildings. We would like to see these dollars diverted to the road map activities. Good will, honesty, effectiveness and collaboration begin with listening to this community groundswell movement.

Enforce the law or change the law.

First: this plan should not prevent police from doing it's job when needed. Individual cases should be viewed case by case irrelevant to race. It shouldn't give more rights or protection to any law violators just because they belong to any minority group. We need equal justice for everybody.

Second: this initiative should not involve more taxes for home owners and hiring more staff to King County.

I strongly believe in youth detention centers jails and other efforts to maintain the safety of the taxpayers against criminals. Yes use can be criminals they killed the murder the steel. Each person decides their own fate it does not matter you're up Upbringing rich or poor you the person the child decides how they are going to live their lives. This is from someone that grew up very poor and has worked very hard all her life to have at the house I did not decide to do drugs I did not decide to commit any crimes that is a decision you make that is not an excuse of how you were raised or if you had money or did not have money you make the choice if you're going to be a criminal

What's the plan when diversion into community based solutions fail to address the criminal activity? What can the county do to help make the (last resort) systems of detention and incarceration focused on rehabilitation rather than punishment?

What about restitution for the victims? Where's the truth and reconciliation? The intro to this survey posted by KC is biased and not based on facts.

Minus the treat of detention, at risk youth will be emboldened to carry out crimes of escalating severity. If all they're going to suffer for committing a crime is a scolding, a couple of classes on how to "act" civil, a hug and then be set free to continue - they will continue to fail in society. It starts with family and the involvement of the parents to raise their own children. At risk youth need to be removed from their toxic families at an early age or they will not be redeemable in society as they grow into adulthood.

Until the white community understands and agrees that kids of color are equally innocent, equally deserving of the benefit of the doubt, and equally deserving of second chances, there will always be pressure to police and punish these kids more harshly. I see a lot of work within the impacted community - what if the problem is actually outside of it?

Need to address the severity of the infraction. Minor crimes should not require detention. Assault, theft/robbery and any crime involving community safety needs harsher consequences.

Good proposals--now these goals have to be implemented. African American communities already have community already in place: ie churches. The churches are very good at supporting young people. There should be support available for youth that cannot abide the "trinity." There's room for a high school class devoted to "ethics," I think--a firm belief in ethical behavior will bring us to a more empathetic society. Western white society (especially here in America) devolved into a free-for-all with its loss of religion, loss of belief in psychotherapy, and even the loss of belief in the arts as restorative forces. I think a history program in middle school and high school focusing on tensions between working classes, people of color and the elite would bring us to better understanding of what America is. More arts in school--because music is an area where we're fully integrated.

Objective 1 Strategy B.

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Is the County actually going to hire competent people of color in executive positions of power along with support staff with equal pay to their white counterparts? And will these staff reflect the demographics in which they serve ?

Someone with brains and a firm grip on the English language

Have you had a family member involved in the legal system that utilized diversion methods and was it successful?

Where's that question on here ?

A bigger youth jail, perhaps guard dogs.

All this talk about being culturally and racially sensitive is nonsense. Children and even teenagers generally don't care at all what color or gender you are they learn that stuff from adults. So instead of all this culturally and racially sensitive bullshit, when kids get in trouble that generally requires the law to get involved the first thing that needs to happen is to put them in some sort of therapy based on their case. When I was a kid the first thing the law did was throw me in a small locked room and didn't explain anything to me. The reason I had trouble with the law was because I had trouble finding anyone that I thought understood me. When you feel like you are the only one that is feeling like you are then there is no reason to listen to the law, or the adults, or the police, or anyone else in power.

Repeat offender status

Severity of the offense

Age of offender(ability to understand offense committed)

Status of family cooperation

Any mention of the fact that some populations of people commit more crimes than others, which is an explanation for the preponderance of arrests in such population.

Any option to rank seriousness of crimes committed in relation to diversion offered. Repeat, gang-tied murderers should be imprisoned, even youth. Repeat violent criminals should be imprisoned, even youth.

Until you factor in the above you are simply playing games.

Employment and mentoring opportunities for at risk youth and the money to fund the programs needed.

These goals are a dangerous mistake. Youth who commit acts of arson, murder, home invasions, burglary, assault with weapons have a need to be locked up. In my prior Seattle neighborhood, a lot of these very serious crimes were committed by minors. Diverting them from incarceration would be insane.

While I believe some youth can be diverted from detention and that more efforts have to be made to do this for youth of color in particular, I believe there also is a population that can benefit from detention. I have a background in child welfare and I have seen children that absolutely cannot gain control of their lives without the structure of detention. I have seen kids who run from place to place avoiding the pain they have. I have seen social workers practically praying that the child will commit a crime so that they can be held securely and get services before they harm themselves more. I have also seen youth whose families are not and cannot give them the structure and support they need even with assistance and services. I have also seen youth with serious mental health issues, refusing to engage in treatment in the community and families of color who do not trust the mental health system and discourage treatment. We are now seeing children in kindergarten at the schools where I am volunteer who have serious behavioral and mental health issues, lack a social caring for others and cannot respect authority. All this is to say that this plan needs to be more realistic and understand the deep problems that need to be addressed.

Where is the penalty system for underage criminals. This is troubling to hear that instead of punishing violent offenders that our tax dollars will turn them back over to non existing parental units that should be held accountable

What is missing is obvious--there is no concern/attention to the victims of youth crime. This survey is a ridiculous, politically skewed attempt to garner political support for zero detention. The term "zero detention" itself is a fundamental problem. I whole-heartedly

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

agree that we should reduce youth detention and find more effective ways to deal with youth crime. But zero detention is not only impossible, but misguided. Look at the comments on NextDoor that accompanied this survey. Listen and learn.

I'm not sure where you have stated what the consequences are when laws are broken. Discipline addresses wrong behavior with consequences where an individual may think

twice before committing another wrongful act. It has a proven track record. Our schools are an example of turning a cheek. No consequences has not changed wrong behavior. Equity is discrimination.

Implementation details of what constitutes community led support

I think family is a huge aspect to be considered in terms of keeping youth safe and out of the legal system. Ensuring youth programs are VERY available to youth without supportive family environments is crucial.

You have a real problem. Let's spend more money to decide we can't decide and then have more meetings!!??

New youth detention center is a massive building that looks like a fire trap. No windows, no doors on east side.

Not government's role, certainly not King County's role, to restore families, bring equity, whatever. Please work on infrastructure, police protection, environmental zoning policies, etc. These are government roles, not these social issues. These are for families, communities, churches, non-profits, etc. to address. Silencing one group to raise the voice of another group is not okay. Having a different set of rules for one ethnic group than another is not equal justice and not okay. Hold persons, even youth, accountable for their bad choices. Keep society safe by keeping them in detention until they decide to go a different path and change their behavior.

We need more punishments for all kinds of crimes that they have committed., depends on the levels. Please stop wasting tax payers money on all your failure pilot programs.

1. The how. These are great objectives, but the difficult thing to work out are the practical steps needed to achieve them and how the relevant institutions will be motivated to work towards them.

2. A similar set of objectives for those youth who for whatever reason cannot be managed using the above proposal. Similarly thoughtful steps should be laid out to rehabilitate them as well.

Holding youth accountable for their actions.

Change terminology from detention to rehabilitation and reintegration. Stop building the youth jail and find more humane accommodations and programming that give hope, and the possibility to change their minds to new ways of thinking. The new youth jail is an over scaled terrifying fortress with micro windows. We should be trying to give these kids a new path forward and a second chance, not traumatizing them further with oppressive architecture. It's not to say that consequences aren't important for bad actions, but let's measure them against other kids instead of tracking them into the prison system. The community deserves better, we should be attacking root causes of juvenile crime and offering more robust education and support paths so that we reduce crime and don't have to build mega jails in our neighborhoods.

Promote ways for the community to help.

These are all challenging programs. I hope you are successful. That said, we must continue to protect our communities from people, including minors or even black who have proven themselves to be dangerous. Yes, we want to help them make good choices and create a life worth living with a minimum of harm but also violent offenses must continue to be taken seriously with rehabilitative and restorative requirements before we cut them loose or give them too much trust. There must still be good judgment. The jail system is unfair at times and does harm but also, flawed as it is, it protects. We want a humane and constructive programs with a positive impact on protection from those who have not yet learned or are unwilling to leave the violence cycle and take their anger, pain, etc. out on others.

Your questions are so biased and preconceived that this survey is hardly a sincere attempt to gather public response as it is an infomercial on how culturally sensitive your organization is. Equity in opportunity and in the response to behaviors is paramount and necessary BEFORE worrying about mandating equity in outcomes (zero detention). Tell that to officer Moreno's family.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

What about gangs? If you don't put a gang member where they can't hurt others, they will ruin our city. I don't believe they should ever be mixed in with adults in detention and I do believe that they need counseling by a caring and tough support system. Never let them be abused in the system like adults!

Strong community and family is important to keep youths from committing crimes in the first place. Once they commit the crimes, they should face the consequences. We have laws in place to handle them once they are found guilty. The tagline should be Zero Youth Crimes instead of Zero Youth Detention.

A combination of #2-#4. These are not "children ". Some are brutal tweens to teenagers whom need to be held responsible for their actions. If not detained in youth centers, then adult jail/prisons are the only alternative.

Youth who commit crimes must be held accountable for their actions. Detention is appropriate if they are indeed a danger to the community.

State and Federal government do a great many things to undermine communities, so it should not be surprising that there isn't a lot of community engagement. You shouldn't expect engagement on your terms while you simultaneously cut short the ability of communities to form strong bonds. Realistically, you only have a choice between passive disengagement and active opposition by communities.

Emphasizing prevention by very early intervention - \*before\* youth are in crisis. That can be through cooperation among multiple systems (per d. under Objective four) Examples: 1) with HHS in the high-ROI Nurse Family Partnership program; 2) with schools, including preschools and daycares, in shifting to restorative justice models - as in the juvenile justice system - and positive discipline techniques [understanding that, as schools are already overburdened with mandates, in order for these programs to be successful, they should be introduced via a patient, supportive, listening process focused on staff buy-in; and recognizing that school systems should not be tasked with providing social services that should fall under the purview - and budget - of HHS; community schools is one way to both teach and provide services effectively].

-Mental health support for youth who are identified at-risk

-Improving community relationships with youth and pride in neighborhood

In objective 3, I would like to see more emphasis on what we are diverting youth TO. Will the county be able to provide alternatives and/or support for community-based and family-based services?

Nothing is missing. We still need detention, but then make sure that it is mandatory they complete some education and they also understand what they have done will not be tolerated. They need to be held accountable, but we also need to help them before they are able to be let out of the detention facility. I feel the family or lack of family is where all this begins. I know there are people much smarter than I am who knows how this can be fixed.

Review of past biases and accounting for them, with compensation if merited. Removal of officials with proven track records of bias, overlooking bias, and those who punished any whistleblowers for calling it out.

In addition to addressing racial disparity in the justice system, I would also like to see child abuse and sexism identified and addressed. Our penal system is filled with people who were abused as children. Sexually abused girls often end up as prostitutes, with a starting average age of 13. These are not criminals. The men who abuse, buy and sell them are and need to be strongly prosecuted. These girls needs specialized services.

Clean up the drug problem and most issues will take care of them self. Good quality drug rehabs and support!

objective one. lots of white criminals committing property crimes and doing drugs. need to arrest them.

programs suggested can be effective and should be used in conjunction with detention.

Criminal acts must be met with significant consequences, and detention cannot be off the table. Sentencing must be consistent across racial lines, which may not mean proportional by race.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

It's "nice" that King County has decided incarceration is harmful to youths. Your objectives, however noble and well-meaning, will not work without integrating society as a whole. Your objectives outline outcomes in a controlled environment involving the affected family members and certain departmental workers. In order for this to be totally effective, the entire community (on a small scale - all of King County) needs to be involved. I'm not speaking of the various departments within the cities and towns that comprise King County or surveys like this one. I'm saying every citizen that resides in King County needs to be on board. Make King County a hate-free zone; encourage community programs that are open to everyone - not just people in the lower echelon of society; and discourage (rather than the current practice of encouraging) the development of housing that caters only to a specific economic sector (this will have a dual effect on reducing the homeless population).

Everyone understands that business is business and we can't all be best friends but we CAN be kind to one another. I think it should start at the top. The youth have a strong distrust of our law enforcement. You can change that. As I said, we don't have to be best friends but we can be kind to one another and take care of business. Stop throwing money at problems to solve them. More positive results can be obtained through kindness rather than coin. I would encourage more human interaction. If you can do that, you will have a more positive impact on not only reducing youth detention but have a positive effect on the future of our society. One small act of kindness can change a person's life forever (no matter the age). Keep in mind, the youth today are our leaders tomorrow. I don't understand how you don't see that. I think we should do everything in our respective roles to make every youth a productive and appreciated member of society. Our future depends on it.

Public knowledge of the above systems. Many parents have no idea where to turn or where to go for help in working with, in dealing with their own children. Parents are afraid and embarrassed to seek help. They are also afraid of their own children. School counselors and classes for parents would help immensely. NAMI hold weekly sessions for young people but many young people do not think they need help. Schools need to be more involved with young people being involved themselves.

This survey is horrible. It's leading and promoting only one option and path without any data to support or back up your strategies. I think this entire strategy is going to fail... and the victims of increased youth crime are going to be the ones to suffer. I agree with programs to prevent youth crime (keep kids in school, offer community programs and support for those in need, mentor programs, parent involvement). However - what happens after the crime is committed is a different story. People need to be held accountable - even youth.

Teaching youth (starting at home) to respect authority (teachers, law enforcement, private citizens). You do not run from authority. If you do something wrong you pay the price, regardless of how serious the wrong was. If you run from authority or do not obey commands and get shot you got what you had coming!

Include the involvement of extended family members, for example grandparents or uncles and aunts, in the assessment and treatment stages for detained youth. Sometimes these family members have wiser and more objective viewpoints than immediate families.

This survey doesn't mention/address the type of offenses or criminal history of the individual. Not everyone should be considered for some sort of diversion nor is it best for all youth to be returned to a dysfunctional home environment thinking that the situation can somehow be rectified through family engagement. You can have all the goals and programs you want but it makes no difference if you don't get buy in and a willingness to participate from the youth (and family) that are involved. Each situation is different and the approach/action should be tailored to the person, situation, allegations and their willingness/ability to comply with a program and make the lifestyle changes that will lead to success. Race should be out of the picture altogether - an approach should be based on well defined criteria that are equally applied to everyone regardless of race.

I DO NOT believe in "Zero Youth Detention" as a goal. The goal should be a radical reduction of crime in all forms and detention, including for youth as appropriate, is one of many valid methods which are necessary to achieve that goal

What is missing? Parents who discipline their children in a consistent manner. Failing that, there has to be some disciplinary function, which, unfortunately often involves the criminal justice system, juvenile or otherwise. There have to be behavioral boundaries in any business, school, or society, and when then those boundaries are broken, there needs to be consequences, or nothing will be learned by the individual, and the boundaries will not be respected.

This is very general; really need to separate questions, or include clarifying question re: type of offense. I agree with all the above except for violent offenders.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

The problem lies with a child's home environment. Society cannot fix broken families. Where is the County planning to find money to pay for all of these feel-good policies and programs? As it is we are severely underfunding law enforcement. The County's claim that strong communities keep us safe is a farce in the face of high drug abuse and crime. We're already over taxed and the County wants to fund all of this pie in the sky policy? Show me scientific fact supporting these policies. Show me established cost-benefit analysis that these policies would be an efficient use of taxpayer resources. When will government hold parents accountable? Teachers and society cannot replace lack of parenting at home. And what does the County plan to do with underage kids who prove to be incapable of rehab? This plan will potentially put the greater community at risk and in danger of increased criminal behavior.

We need a colorblind justice and youth with solid boundaries. Youth that are disruptive and violent need to be removed and punished but also given the opportunity to recompense and learn how to be a civil contributing member of society. Though your intent sounds noble, this new approach sounds like it will end up like most other similar government programs exacerbating the problem and be a waste of money. Look what happened in Parkland Fl. That murderer/youth was not incarcerated because of a similar program. We need to support the police and enforce the laws to ensure a civil society.

The plan sounds good but will require massive funding to be implemented with fidelity. I am sure you are well aware that home owners have already been hit hard on property taxes. Where will the money come from to provide all the necessary services? School funding has increased so that is a good start. We can't just throw money at what appears to be a "good idea" and expect a positive outcome. Do we have scientifically backed research guiding the plan? There have been programs nationwide with similar intentions that have been abject failures. I hope we take into account the lessons other cities and organizations have already learned. The aforementioned seems obvious but needs to be examined critically and thoroughly.

Parenting classes and community based programs providing resources starting with preschool and continuing K-12 to create a preventative social outlets before problems start. Options will need to be available day/evening/weekends to support a variety of work schedules.

I think disciplining all the youth who get in trouble is the most important thing to be done. To water-down punishment is to encourage bad behavior to continue--the legal system probably needs to be involved for this to have a greater impact on the youth, in an effort to get them to change. All races should be judged and disciplined equally, even if that means some races have a higher representation in the legal system to be punished -- race should never be a factor considered -- bad behavior is bad behavior no matter who did it or why. The best prevention method is to support the family structure and offer Big Brothers/Sisters to youth from a broken home or a home providing poor discipline. Providing a mentor program through the legal system or referred by it would be helpful.

Tactics. And the understanding that total diversion away from a juvenile facility isn't always practical. Much as we hate to admit it, some youth are better kept away from the community. Even as youth are being served, there must be a central place to provide that service, especially if youth are referred to neighborhood services.

If there is no threat of punishment for crimes committed, perpetrators will continue to offend. Actions should have consequences. Prevention through promotion of strong families and moral values is important to deter crime. Social programs that support the breakdown of responsible family units are not helpful. We need to promote responsibility not excuses.

Family counseling and parental responsibility are key to keeping kids off the streets and out of trouble. Some kids are in trouble because they feel no one cares about them. Parenting is hard especially if you don't come from a strong supportive family. I think parenting classes on how to deal with troubled teens might help.

More funding and support is needed in the communities for youths to be engaged AND STAY engaged. Families of youths require ongoing connections to help these youths out of their ruts.

Cultural understanding and sensitivities are required in order for this to work.

Family values, discipline, societal morals, respect, responsibility for actions, God!

I really think we need the camera system they appear to have in England! It's only used when a crime has been committed but they monitor roadways and sidewalks to help identify possible connections. It also helps in finding lost persons.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Develop programs that will engage youth in healthy activities where they can meet other youth and adults who are positive role models in their lives. As a teen, I was on juvenile probation, and the one thing I credit to helping me the most was the JPO recreation program. I was able to be a part of and get certified in healthy activities, such as SCUBA diving, lake kayaking, snowshoeing, skiing, hiking, camping, etc. This opened up a whole new world of possibilities for me. I got off probation, obtained my first job at a SCUBA dive shop, stopped getting into trouble, and became one of my probation officer's "success stories" amongst many others. I truly believe this diversion/recreation program saved my life. Rather than telling kids they have a problem, we need to help them see who they can be.

Accountability for youth's actions and parental responsibility.

Acknowledgement that DRUGS are a huge part of youth incarceration. Perhaps we need to address Drug Involved Youth differently. I don't know but I do know that one size fits all isn't working. Often crimes are committed in response to being drug addicted, so effective DRUG TREATMENT is needed.

Stop building the new youth jail and convert it to a homeless shelter for youth.

The only thing I can see which needs to be implemented is resources which will assist youth who have become involved with the legal system public resources to facilitate avoiding future encounters with law enforcement.

Nowhere in here do you discuss restorative justice for victims of crimes committed by youth nor do you discuss punishment of youth committing crime. I agree government/business should do what it can to engage youth but you are totally off the mark by ignoring this issue. If you had led with facts who and why they have been detained over the last 10 years and then made an argument why detention was improper, more taxpayers would be listening. Instead, this survey and initiative comes off as pandering to protesters of the new detention center. I can't imagine what "culturally reflective" means in dealing with youths who are detained/arrested. "Zero Youth Detention" sounds like if you do the crime, no fear, you will get a free pass because of your age. A better moniker please.

What is missing is community involvement BEFORE crimes are committed. Create programs that encourage family involvement and one-on-one support. Incarceration is not where the problem begins.

It's naive to believe that these policies won't lead to kids being kept out of "the system" simply to provide positive statistics for a bad idea that will lead to situations exactly like the Parkland shooting. In fact, not having the kids reported in the system allowed that individual to legally purchase a firearm. Had he been in the system properly he would have been monitored and possibly prevented from purchasing the firearm used.

What is missing is common sense..... which it appears these initiatives sorely lack. You obviously have not welcomed Law Enforcement's input...

Zero Youth Detention in King County is a pipe dream. It is good to have standards that will help reduce the youth detention population but it will never be eliminated. A youth detention center is an absolute must and it should be used for those youth who engage in serious criminal behavior including murder, and aggravated criminal behavior. Minor offenses and status offenses as well as "contempt of court" offenses should never be detained in a secure detention facility.

This is wrong thinking. There must be penalties for all crimes -- never a free pass. Real life is not a game and there is no such thing as a 'get out of jail card' as in the board game Monopoly.

Objective #1 is racist and wrong. Every juvenile should be evaluated equally based on their behavior, without any regard to their ethnicity. Secure detention should only be used as a last resort to protect the community from someone who can't be helped in any other way. You should detail all of those people without regard to whether a lot or only a few other people of their ethnicity are in the same situation.

Are you going to try to achieve "gender equity" in detention next? For many demographic and cultural reasons (many of which we should try to change), different genders and ethnicities commit different rates of violent crime and mayhem and that may naturally lead to differences in how many require your secure detention service. But at the King County criminal justice level, you should be treating everyone equally regardless of their ethnicity.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

The execution of these strategies will obviously be expensive, but so is incarceration of juveniles, who potentially become incarcerated adults, and that REALLY is expensive. A strategy that features this fact on an ongoing basis might be prudent, so as to counter the inevitable push-back that will occur regarding funding for your Objectives. ZYD as public policy is a noble goal and I applaud your efforts. A top notch PR campaign would be a valuable ally.

Nothing missing, the six strategies are all needed. Focus on narrow strategies at first would make meaningful change more likely.

Enough qualified counselors and workers to advocate for/with the youth.

The problem of a disproportionate amount of PoC in incarceration stems from the lack of support for those families from the county and community. If families had easily accessible programs that allow them to rise up and improve their living situations and their lives in general, and feel a deeper connection to KC's community, then there would be fewer youths and adults committing illegal activities. Please help people get back on their feet and live happy, successful lives, where they never run into the legal system in the first place - that's where our tax dollars and community effort needs to be focused.

Drugs is the problem. Parents with drugs raising kids with drugs. None of the above will work because it already has been tried and failed. This is the government doing the same ole same ole in order to look like they are doing something that has never been thought of before. I worked in the juvenile prison system. The kids do not get there on their first offense. Nor on the second. And sometime not even the third. If you want rapists, arsonists, murderers and the like in the school system with non criminal children, that is on you. There has been a diversion program for at least 30 years. Think of something new to help kids. There isn't enough tax money to pay for all of the above plus all of the other programs and promises by the government. And the taxpayers are being bled dry as it is. Good luck and God Bless and think of something that hasn't been tried a million times before.

I just watched two juveniles (black, possibly East African) steal JUULs (vaporizers) from the Northgate Arco then jump into a waiting \$80k silver BMW and take off doing 60MPH on the neighbor street. Let's promote this Zero Youth Detention policy and encourage this free-will gang/sta behavior. Down and out with Dow.

I'd like more details on how you are going to manage to implement these objectives.

Youths who commit crime need to be dealt with in an appropriate fashion. If they figure out that nothing will happen to them if they commit a crime they will just commit again.

Would hope most of this is going on currently. Unfortunately, realistically some no matter their race or background will end up in legal system. High school kid shot dead by my house, Kent police officer killed accidentally was involved in pursuit of teenagers firing weapons in restaurant parking lot.

Missing is a detention center that will take youths who have offended off the streets. Coddling does not help.

Higher rates of criminality have nothing to do with your buss words of equity and social justice. People get arrested because they commit crimes. There is an FBI statistic which asks if the victim can identify the race f the perpetrators. It shows certain ethnic groups commit crime far in excess of their proportion of the population. Their culture does not condemn crime or raise their children to respect others of all races and cultures.

YOU ARE WAITING TO LONG TO BEGIN ACTION. YOU DONT START WITH TEENAGERS YOU START IN GRADE1. ALMOST EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO DO IS AFTER THE FACT. YOU NEED TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY GET INTO TROUBLE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT. PEOPLE IN NIGHBORHOODS SEE THE PROBLEMS DEVELOP, WHY ARE THEY NOT COMPLAINING OR MAKING LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARE. MAYBE COUNTY NEEDS TO START A NEW PROBLEM NUMBER TO CALL "HELP A TEEN" (333) ANSWERED BY RECORDING AND LEAVE A MESSAGE TO PROTECT ANONIMITY. AND POST IT ON THE FRONT PAGE OF EVERY MORNING SEATTLE TIMES

BEGIN TRAIING STUDENTS IN GRADE 1 TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MAKE IT MANDATORY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION. YOU ARE CLOSING THE BARN DOOR WAY TO LONG AFTER THE HORSES ARE LONG GONE. GET THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S INTO THE SCHOOLS, SUNDAY SCHOOLS, SPORTING EVENTS. PASS OUT INFO AT SEAHAWKS, HOCKEY GAMES, KIDS SPORTING EVENTS, LOCAL FAIRS, GET THESE GUYS AND WOMAN WHO DO GREAT WORK OUT OF THEIR OFFICES AND INTO THE FIELD. TRY AND KEEP SAME OFFICERS IN SAME LOCATIONS SO THE KIDS LEARN WHO THEY ARE AND CAN CREATE SOME RELATIONSHIPS.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I WAS AT MUKELTEO STATE PARK ABOUT 6 MONTHS AGO AND I SAW AN MUKLETO POLICE OFFICER PARK HIS CRUISER AND WALK PAST ME TO THE BEACH. HE APPROACHED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SCHOOL DAY AT THE BEACH. HE APPROACHED ONE OF THE TEACHERS AND AFTER A FEW MINUTES WITH THE TEACHER HE BEGAN SPEAKING WITH THE KIDS AND PASSING OUT INFORMATION TO THEM. WHEN HE FINISHED HE CAME BY MY CAR AND I CALLED TO HIM. HE CAME TO MY CAR AND I TOLD HIM HOW IMPRESSED I WAS WITH HIS ACTION WITH THE KIDS AND THAT OF THE MUKELTEO POLICE DEPARTMENT. HE THANKED ME AND RETURNED TO HIS CRUISER. RIGHT AFTER HE RETURNED HIS PARTNER CAME OVER TO ME AND THANKED WE FOR HAVING WORDS WITH HIS "TRAINEE" HE THEN ASKED ME MY FEELING ABOUT SPEAKING TO KIDS SO YOUNG. MY RESPONSE WAS THAT IS THE TIME TO START TRAINING YOUTH, BY THE TIME THEY ARE IN HIGH SCHOOL IT IS WAY TO LATE. I DID NOT SEE IN ANY OF THE ABOVE ANYTHING LIKE THIS. YOU WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THEY GET INTO TROUBLE OR INCARCARATED. I THINK YOU NEED SOME MORE POINTS OF VIEW. THIS REEKS OF SEATTLE CITY COUNCI. I HOPE YOUR CITY COUNCIL ARE NOT INVOLVED IN YOUFYOUTH PROGRAMS. YOU NEED PEOPLE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVED. NOT A BUNCH OF POLTICIANS

Protect our communities from violent youth.

Stop the political correctness. Stop trying to earn race brownie points and actually reduce crime.

While I agree with most of this, youth must not be referred back to families that are unsafe for the youth.

This really gets at the core question of corrections as punishment vs rehabilitation and whether deterrents are effective. We cannot apply a one-size-fits-all approach. While youth matters should lean heavier toward rehabilitation, the individual's psychology and the nature of the crime matter. A kid busted for shoplifting or marijuana probably doesn't pose a serious threat to the community. A violent offender likely might. The goal of zero detention is honorable but neglects to acknowledge that, sadly, some youth are severely broken by the time the system gets to them.

I believe it is extremely important to provide education about how to respect others in order to combat/prevent misogyny and rape culture across socioeconomic groups. If schools need to do more of this, then they need more help with funding and/or more agencies that come in to provide it.

I agree that all of this should happen. I have hesitated in some of my answers because of the phrasing of the statements: "will be effective" as opposed to "should be effective" or "can be effective if fully funded and implemented," etc. If you really want to gauge the level of community commitment to these goals and strategies, think that it would be helpful to indicate some suggestion of what the cost would be and ask if people are willing to pay for these practices in a given prescribed manner. Right now, this reads as "best practices" but without practical guidance as to how we get there. What are the costs and trade-offs? I can see the upside, as I say, but I don't know the downside.

Arrest white youth at the same rates as non-white youths for the same crimes and see how quickly the community starts to take notice. Kids are exposed to more than they ever were before. They do need to be held accountable for their actions. Secure detention may not be the answer to all crimes committed, but it certainly is required in violent crimes or crimes that tend to be repetitive.

All these objectives are well intentioned but too generic. It all depends on what crimes young people have committed. All these objectives are fine for petty crimes, but for violent crimes or crimes that are clearly premeditated, the involvement of these youngsters with the legal system is inevitable and fair. Also, what is missing here is a much stronger emphasis on parents responsibility over youngsters that commit crimes. Communities can do only so much if parents responsibility is not demanded by society.

These strategies represent abstract ideation. What's missing, understandably from a survey, is concrete, evidence-based steps for each goal. "Aligning systems..." for example, sounds great. But even that one step is incredibly complex. I don't have much faith that any of the objectives will be skillfully managed even to the point where we can call this project a good experiment in that useful data was captured at least. But if I'm wrong, I'd love to be part of this program.

What little value social science on this subject reveals issues of intergenerational poverty and low- or no-family-support networks to be critical factors in putting children in poverty (black, white, or brown) in contact with the criminal justice system. So focus on early interventions like early childhood education, building supported healthy families, stronger schools, and restorative justice for property crimes ONLY. When youth commit violent crimes, they MUST NOT be held in pre-trial detention or post-conviction

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

incarceration with adults therefore a new youth facility must be built to house them. With the JRA's focus on rehabilitation, a modern facility with options for education, psychological therapy, substance abuse treatment, and training may be our one last chance to save a child. The new facility must be built but all other stated objectives must be pursued as well.

Gang affiliation should not be considered.

You can not make a rule to try and make everything fair. The reason black youth have a higher representation in incarceration is because they commit the most crimes. This is because they have fewer fathers at home, due to abandonment and incarceration. The way to change that is to encourage good behavior and solutions, not eliminating consequences. You can do this through strong communities, common sense care and a hand up. For that to work, there needs to be accountability and personal responsibility. Quit giving out freebees with no accountability. Get mentors from within the community.

Voices of families impacted by violence including police violence. Incorporate trauma informed policing countywide NOW. More support is needed for children impacted by community and interpersonal violence.

This is a misguided and dangerous approach. Criminals should be appropriately dealt with. The history in King County of giving teenage criminals guilty of assault, theft and gun crimes a pass, has backfired repeatedly. The excuse that a teenagers brain is "not fully developed" to know right from wrong is pure nonsense. As a teenager, I and all my friends knew the difference. At the end of the day, giving minority kids who commit crimes a pass is just pure racism, disguised as progressive dogma. What you're saying is that minorities are not smart enough to know better. People must be held accountable for their actions, regardless of age, gender, race or economic status. This just a vote getting gimmick. And pure racism

You can draw a straight line from this sort of soft headed posturing used in place of policy, and the fact that we have one of the highest rates of property crime in the nation.

There does not appear to be any considerations for victim's rights.

In objective 4, strategy c, the "Ensure arrested and detained youth receive trauma informed" is not needed. Any trauma resulting from being arrested and jailed for something you did is an essential part of "deterrence". What's missing is the exact opposite of Objective 2. While it sounds nice to say keep youth out of the legal system it's actually wrong headed. The legal system must take a stronger stance rather than be removed from the equation. If a kid does something to get arrested, the legal system needs to follow through to ensure the kid stops breaking the law. While I agree that sentencing and incarceration needs to be age and situation appropriate (which seems to be missing currently) it seems clear to me that kids need to know there will be very "unattractive" consequences to breaking the law. In my own case I certainly wasn't afraid of the consequences after my first arrest because charges were deferred with 6 months probation. Easy, keep a low profile for 6 months and you're all good. Nope, consequences have to be something harsh enough to make a kid seriously change their behavior.

What about gangs? Also a 16 year old boy is held in response to the death of Officer Diego of Kent. I don't believe the family support is there if their relatives are criminals also. It's summer and no school. What would you have done to prevent a 16 year old and two 18 year olds from firing guns and stealing cars?

I think the broader issue is strong families. Any policy that the government can promote that supports and encourages healthy families will reduce the problems youth are facing that lead them to make choices with legal consequences.

It would help to have a mentor, or supervisor ( Probation Officer ). Not just cut loose!

As far as objective 3 I mostly agree. However, if a youth has committed a felony level crime, I believe the youth should initially be put into juvenile detention.

Don't focus on racial markers. Focus on economic markers and family structure markers. Detention needs to be a deterrent, but not a solution.

The idea that some people are actually too dangerous to be in the community and in our schools with our non violent kids. This is insanity. This mind set is absolutely destroying our communities. I'm beyond disgusted with this entire thing. How bout look to actually help kids who are doing illegal stuff and hold them accountable. I know, crazy stuff!

Ban for profit detention in Washington state.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I believe a youth ought to be detained or incarcerated if the crime is severe. I believe youth ought to be tried as an adult if causing the loss of life is the crime. My beliefs are independent of race or color.

All logic and reason are missing. You've got the problem and solutions completely backwards. You have a fluffy, fantasy end goal that will sacrifice the public safety and the very concept of justice in order to gain a patently false sense of equality.

I feel that kids in these situations have problems at home and sometimes need to be out of their toxic environments to have a chance. While I disagree that incarceration is the way to do that I feel that some family situations regardless if the support of them would not be helped by community services or support. Sometimes it's just bad and the youth needs to be out. Maybe an alternative situation that supports troubled youth needs to be re-evaluated and implemented for those situations

Communities are already overwhelmed

Not fair to rely on them

More crackdown on drugs guns and assault now and teach young children to defend themselves with alternatives to violence

Get the gang life obliterated

No soft approach to ringleaders

Community support is imperative if this effort is to succeed. That support is unlikely unless widely held perceptions are changed. Does the majority in our community believe that they are "safer" when youth who commit illegal acts are incarcerated? If so, is there data that discredits that belief? Is there data that can demonstrate the benefits to the whole community -- financial, safety/security -- if productive, engaged youth are contributing to the community rather than incarcerated? If so, how is this perception-changing information being offered to the community?

1. Your number one police should be GUIDANCE for the family of troubled youth. Home is where the problem started in the first place. (I am a former educator. I have seen it and I know)
2. Ethnicity should NOT be a consideration for anything because that means any given race will NOT be helped by a program because there are 'too many' of that race' in the system NEEDING help.
3. While a troubled youth is incarcerated in some facility, the family MUST be getting guidance so the youth, when released, will come home to a more supportive environment.
4. Stop looking for numbers to make YOU 'look good.' You want to say 'we have no youth in detention' for bragging rights when you should be saying we have XXXX number in detention and about to be realized to a better situation at home and there is a FOLLOW-UP plan in place for the youth AND family until certain goals are reached.

There are siblings in most stories of a troubled youth. By helping the family while the youth is incarcerated / detained, you help younger (usually) siblings avoid the legal system.

Youth are in trouble many times due to family/home situations and the belief in our "victim" culture. Somewhere along the line the youth need to stand up and be responsible for their actions, as do their parents. I see a lot of verbiage but no concrete idea as to what all of it will mean in real life situations, therefore it is hard to agree with the plan. It all sounds pretty, but where are the funds? What will be the alternate interactions? Where are the youth held responsible for their actions? What types of activity by youth are covered by these strategies?

The complete lack of understanding that government cannot replace the family and become the "strong community" you think will suddenly exist. You are expecting government to replace strong families and decades of social and family decline in the US. None of what you propose here will reduce crime by any race, period.

See [www.iirp.edu](http://www.iirp.edu)

I support your survey and efforts to look at solutions through an equity lens. Consider Restorative Practices. Contact me if I can help further.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

425.999.6043

Arianna

Objective 4 sounds good only if accountability is mandatory to show success or failure. The King county Sheriff's Dept had a program that did everything that Objective describes in 1976, 42 years ago. It was called the youthful Offender Program. It worked successfully until the grant ran out to fund it.

Our community is in crisis with drugs, crime and we non-criminals are sick of what is happening. We are so lenient and concerned about members of society that break the laws that the rest of pay the price. Those of us are fed up with politicians patronizing us. A small percentage of our society is affecting all of our lives. The youth need accountability not just sympathy.

can't emphasize enough the importance of training and accountability for public safety/legal system personnel, especially those doing the policing "on the streets." People are not inherently more dangerous, criminal or "scary" because they are not white, because they speak languages other than English, or because they are mentally ill.

I believe your survey results will be flawed due to the order/positioning of the responses. Every survey I've ever done lists "Strongly agree" as the initial option, "Agree" as the next option and so on. Respondents sympathetic to your position will inadvertently say they disagree unless they take note of the upside down order.

There is not one blanket solution to youth detention, because sometimes youth detention is due to a young person being removed from an abusive or neglectful home or due to the death of the young person's parents and no available relatives to stay with. Youth detention is a terrible response to these situations. Care by a family or group home equipped to love and care for them is the most appropriate situation. However, when youth detention is the result of a young person doing illegal activity such as assault or theft, it is important for the young person to be held accountable. The best solution for this is some time of accountability in which the young person makes amends. The 12 step program is one of the most well equipped ways to do this. I do not believe that jail or youth detention serves a good purpose, but it is not about race either. It is about accountability and making amends and learning from one's mistakes.

Accountability for the actions done by perpetrator. Jail is appropriate for some crimes. Actions lead to consequences and being young is not an excuse for bad behavior

The problem is the lack of accountability at home. We can work on that while still holding kids accountable. There are kids who deserve detention. Period. You can't make such blanket statements and goals such as "zero".

There are those who cannot be in the community because their criminal act is so severe. That is an element that is ignored or often dismissed. A zero detention goal is unworkable for this reason. Those who want the construction of the new youth detention facility to stop have not experienced what some youth are capable of. Maybe those people could offer to take such youth into their homes.

Your survey is very political and obviously written with the intent to generate support for your preconceived conclusions. This is very disturbing coming from a government office. Zero detention is as crazy as locking everyone up -- the world is grey, not black and white.

Making those that commit crimes do their time is what you forgot! Stop wasting our taxpayer dollars on raising everyone else delinquent kids! They know they're doing wrong when they commit the crimes!!!

Objective #1 is limited to policies and hiring. That does nothing to address racism and unconscious bias in the people who are already part of the justice system (law enforcement, judges, etc.). Consider a few additional strategies:

\* Provide annual training for existing staff on unconscious bias.

\* Log and publish metrics on outcomes based on the whole life cycle of the interaction with criminal justice (e.g. how many times was a white person let off with a warning vs. a black person who was put into the system all the way through to incarceration).

\* Create specific HR policies and metrics to require diversity (or encourage when requiring it is not practical). This includes not just in hiring; but in all levels of leadership and in all public forums (e.g. require any public speaking to have diverse representation, require publications to be reviewed by a panel of diverse leaders).

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

\* As much as possible move to "blind" evaluations where names / race are removed so the evaluation is not influenced by unconscious bias.

I think we need to be clear that there are times when detention is necessary (ie. murder) and that youth should never be placed in adult jails or prisons. And we should not ignore the fact that even with a zero youth detention goal, we may need to do this. We need to make sure that any detention facility will also provide the support needed for the person to be there and be helped.

Whilst I applaud the efforts made to help divert youth from an early criminal record, the 'Identify and eliminate policies that result in racial disproportionality' policy assumes that it is the 'legal system' which is resulting in the disproportionality without presenting any evidence (beyond outcome) that it plays a role. This is deeply flawed and speaks of a position taken on ideology rather than evidence. As such, it is fundamentally flawed and runs a real risk of attempting to retro-fit 'equality of outcome' without addressing (or even finding out) the underlying causes. Such a policy makes no sense in the absence of empirical evidence proving that such policies exist.

Mental illness diagnostic evaluation is critical to appropriate consequences for deviant behavior.

Focusing on racial lines for how to identify problems with the legal system is a flawed approach as it ignores more important factors like economic standing. It also attributes higher level of incarceration with racism instead of a variety of other factors.

When the burner is hot and a child puts his hand on it in spite of being told he will get burned, he gets burned and learns a lesson. Criminal teens need to experience the results of their behavior. In that incarcerated environment, then do something to help them: counseling, schooling, etc.

Protection of family members, victims, and innocent members of community from violent and predatory / exploitative people young and old. As a member of a family with some people who had violent, exploitative, and abusive behaviors, I can attest that breaking this cycle in a family must include removal of abusive family members — including young males — from the family/home/community. Please think about the children who are NOT committing crimes, or have not done so yet — these children can be freed from the cycle and allowed to heal and empower themselves if they are not under the constant threat of a family member infected with violent and exploitative compulsions.

What is missing, is protecting the general public from people (regardless of race or age) who would like to do harm to others.

Education for all especially the racists showing their colors on NextDoor

There are some circumstances in which incarceration is necessary. The total lack of consequences is license to behave illegally. This is unacceptable

Work programs to train and employ including business involvement. Implied is substance treatment but should be explicit

After school programs that have rewards opportunity to keep kids engaged..

not sure

All of this seems like a band-aid effect. If there aren't strong parents who can parent kids who get in trouble, the parents need counseling & should be required to get help along with their child. I believe it has to start at the home level, not the legal level.

Allowing parents to discipline their children

Efforts toward 0 youth detention is UTOPIA!

Trying to reach this will let to lying to community about the crime perpetrated.

Basically it will lead to covering the crime.

Also, you should not look at the skin color, but to the crime committed.

I think a lot of this is about "others" and what they need rather than what the people working with youth need such as introspective engagement with our internal biases. Additionally, many incarcerated youth and adults have been identified as qualifying for special

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

education. Culturally relevant practices are paramount but we also need to provide information and services that reach a variety of learning modalities as well.

Promote public/private partnerships with organizations that are already experiencing success in these arenas, particularly charities, community services and churches.

There needs to be a differentiation with regard to whatever crime the youth has committed. The above noted objectives are fine and are easily supported but add a gun, an assault, or any kind of felony, then those people need to be off the streets - period. The social justice movement has to confront the reality of public safety but the opposite is also at least as true.

Until the "family" is supported #1, with a focus on having both a Mother and Father in the home, there is very little that will change in the Big Picture. Youth, and especially boys, with no father figure are almost certainly bound for trouble.

What families emphasize is important to outcomes of their children. Work hard in school, make good choices, etc... cannot be instilled by government, their family and community has a bigger impact. Government programs have a tendency to be played by those that have no qualms of beating the system.

Holding them responsible for their actions!

Don't commit the crime if you can't do the time!

Analyze the disproportionality of broken families and race versus the incarceration rates. Simply removing consequences teaches smart kids they can do whatever they want- paving the way for further incarceration as adults. Focus efforts on rebuilding families, supporting fathers and diverse (heterosexual) marriage. Then you will see more proportionate incarceration rates based on race

Distinguish between low level issues that a behavioral matters and more serious crime, do not let diversion of low level issues send a message that more serious crimes will not be punished.

There may need to be organizations or programs that are tasked with the objectives 2 and 4 for reaching out to and supporting youth and families who are at risk. I don't know how the County can manage the services that need to be delivered with current systems.

Protecting the community from dangerous and violent people must be priority number one. Helping youth get back on the right track is important but if they are already engaged in serious crimes that threaten the community safety then diversion is a dangerous goal because you are exposing the community to violence by not locking up criminal youth. Gang crime is a serious local issue and we need to have a robust way to handle it. I'm VERY worried that this plan is ignoring the gang issues that have become a serious problem in King County. When a gang is involved how are you going to put a youth on the right path? What are the metrics you will use to track if this plan is successful? If youth crime goes up and these 'diverted' youth commit more crime, what plan do you have to adjust and change course? Didn't a recent 'diverted' youth go on to commit murder while ON this program? I agree that getting kids on the right path is a good ideal, but I'd prefer to see some realistic plans for how to deal with violent offenders, we must have a place for them to go so that the community is protected.

Until a youth, accused of violence, is shown to be harmless in the public, this person must be detained for public safety.

Its impossible to answer these questions because none of the terms have been defined. What are "restorative policies", community led services" and diversion options"? What are the policies that result in racial disproportionality? My daughter (Hispanic 15 year old) committed a felony. Being arrested and charged was the best thing that ever happened to her. And it was a tremendous relief to us because it meant that maybe we would finally be able get some help for her. Truancy court had been worse than useless! The Youth at Risk petition was only effective, I believe, because she believed that the consequences of non compliance would have the same teeth that the legal side had had. I was so grateful for secure detention because those were the nights I could sleep knowing that she was safe! She is 26 years old now is finding her way. Thank God and the Juvenile Justice system!

The premise is flawed. Zero youth detention WILL leave dangerous youth criminals on the street to commit violent crimes. Reducing youth detention and having youth detention better designed and with full services to help youths who need special care is a good goal. Some youth offenders commits violent assaults and even murder. Those need detention and there will always be some in that category.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

The above strategies seem to be very general, e.g. "Reengage youth from detention into community." But there needs to be services/resources in place for this to happen in a productive direction. Specifically more funding in social services: family/ individual counseling/ group counseling/ group homes/ youth community centers with social education groups/classes, would aid in helping youth transition, find accountability, find new strategies of coping, creating new communities for youth to belong and explore purpose in their lives. Social services for children and youth that focus away from "At Risk" strategies but towards "Finding Purpose" and "Building Community" strategies would give more hope and promise to children and youth who have fallen through the system cracks and do not have a strong social support. I agree with the direction these objectives are starting us off in, thinking of new ways to care for our youth rather than just locking them up, giving them a life-long label of defeat.

This entire survey offers no choices other than the predetermined outcomes the authors have listed. It seeks to screen out voices it doesn't want and then offers questions with answers designed to a pre-determined end (sort of like - "How great do you think I am? Super great, or fantastically great?" Oh, yeah, they think I am great!). It is anti-scientific to the point of being either wastefully pointless or intentionally deceptive. It indicates an alarming level of groupthink at whatever King Country org produced this.

Need clarify what is going to happen if the proposed measures fail.

In my opinion the main problem is that a larger percent of black people like my kids are committing a disproportionate amount of the crimes and the fact that their isn't an even larger amount of them getting incarcerated shows that racism is a very small part of the problem. The fact that the kids commit crimes tonight and tomorrow and next week and don't have actions come down on them for several months before they are held accountable is the main problem. By the time they are held accountable for their action they have made crime a daily part of their lives and they are addicted to the quick easy cash that can make. Having the possibility of affordable education would help. If my children hadn't had their hopes and dreams squashed by the expense and the need for hard workd they may have chosen a different path. The problem is its to easy for lazy people to make money through crime.

Addressing class disparity as a compounding factor for youth and families, as well as the social service agencies envisioned as part of the solution.

There's something about all of us learning the skills of de-escalation -- everyone at each stage of the process, including within communities (before challenges erupt in the first place). Deep investment in early childhood education and family support systems, as an anchor for learning these skills.

Linking with a strong support for public agencies (mental health, health care, housing, dignified entry-level work for youth, etc.) so that the police are not at the front lines of all the conflicts.

Equality in the people making and driving policy and strategies, not just implementing it is missing. Policies and strategies should be reevaluated continually while workforce AND policy makers become more racially and culturally aware.

Emphasis on job training (trade schools not mind numbing office work) is missing - if you want to divert people - give them skills to feel valued and useful.

Emphasis on school system is missing - whats the correlation between school by school funding and incarceration rates?

First, I reject the entire premise. The question is whether youth/race are disproportionately in the legal system relative to their actions. If so, then there is need to correct within the system. If not, and I suspect that is the truth here, then the answer is far greater than what the County can do. You do mention families---and that is the most important element. It all starts at home. You'll need to include a fact-based recognition that two-parent households are very important, and further include faith-based communities for a moral grounding. Without this, you'll be spending lots of time and resources with poor outcomes. Stating "zero" for an objective is silly. Human beings are not innately "good". There will always be problems and you have to be realistic to have facilities and resources to deal with them.

If a law is broken, regardless of color, then it should be prosecuted. If you don't want someone to go to jail for a crime, then remove the crime from the books. But we cannot have parallel legal systems that depend solely on your color.

King county has too many laws, and they are selectively enforced.

Violent offenders should be locked up regardless of their age or race.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

We need political leaders that understand the broader social nuances needed so that we can get the right policies and funding in place to make this happen. What is King County going to do about funding, since we can't control who gets elected?

I think that early childhood education plays a big part in diverting young people from the legal system. The younger you start with educating kids and building confidence and caring nature, the better off we all will be. EARLY EDUCATION!

Work intensely with schools to support children and youth displaying any challenges despite diagnosis both emotionally as well as academically. Quick reaction and kindness are needed. I would suggest finding appropriate placement and immediate support in the way of counselors at each school. Finding the correct environment in which learning can occur is key. Trying to change the neurodiverse population to fit into today's school environments causes trauma.

I repeat: learning cannot occur while in a state of trauma or anxiety.

Where are you going to hold the youth who are violent offenders?

How about parents actually taking responsibility, and being parents instead of buddies? How about parents be solid role models? How about youth not commit crimes? How about goverment organizations not actually being nanny parents? How about our government, and Dow Constantine not wasting money on projects like this- ACTUALLY ALLOW police officers and judges to enforce the laws of the land, not letting uncivilized people do whatever they like? Actual CIVILIZED society's have rules and laws for a reason, not enforcing them means CONSEQUENCES don't exist...

What is missing is any apparent discussion or consideration of the perspective of victims of crimes perpetrated by juveniles. How would you feel if your child were raped or assaulted by a peer, and that peer did not face serious legal consequences? Also, the opposition to building a new juvenile justice facility is undermining the cause of zero youth detention. The new facility is not just a jail - it will be used by dependency court as well as criminal court, and will provide a decent environment for those youth who are inevitably detained. Detained youth deserve to be held in a building that isn't run down, unhealthy, and disgusting. Keeping the old building reinforces the message that the system doesn't care about the youths who are actually IN detention.

Parental responsibility.

I understand that the goal is to hire a diverse and enlightened staff, but in my experience, the employees of the juvenile court system, from detention to probation to services, have not actually reflected that goal. In addition, in my profession as a social worker, it is unfortunately true that, without consequences, there is no reason for behavior to change. Many teens I have met think the juvenile system is a joke, a temporary delay in their activities, but no real deterrent to their activities. Not all teens are acting out because of trauma at home or unmet needs or a lack of caring, listening adults in their lives.

It's important to recognize and respond appropriately when a youth is broken beyond rehabilitation. In cases of murder, torture, rape, etc., the option to divert from secure detention does not exist. The law needs to be very clear about this. In addition, I see nothing addressing mental health and counseling in the strategies. For those on a bad path and coming from abusive families, reengaging youths with said family is not going to help. They need to be taught coping skills for handling their emotions that does not include theft, destruction, and violence.

Cohesion between these efforts is vital to the success.

However, early intervention that prevents getting to this point of managing issues of privilege, equity and access would be a far more economical and effective solution. Global research indicates that parent coaching and support for new parents for the first 3 years of a newborns life, along with access to basic needs (formula, diapers, etc...) prevent many of the issues that are trying to be managed here. This is a re-active approach. Sadly, it will be far more costly and with poorer outcomes to address this systemic issue when children are old enough for this level of intervention.

Yes white youth may not be arrested in the same numbers as our youth, but did you ever think to look at who is committing the crimes? White youths have a greater likelihood of two parents in the home. The family structure has failed the black community and black youths. It is not a problem of who is getting locked up. The illegal actions of the youths are the reason why they are being locked up. It is not about race, IT IS ABOUT CULTURE! Fix the culture then the other problems get fixed. Actions have consequences. You are racist if you do not believe the Black Community is capable of fixing the issue. Stop trying to be the savior's of our community by treating the Black Community with the disrespect of those who believe we are less capable than you are.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Is there some way that youth can be encouraged to be part of youth organizations, such as Camp Fire, Scouts, etc.? Organizations that are youth centered very often encourage and offer a wider support system in addition to families and schools.

I am against the non detention policy. Youth offenders have so many rights that they are treated like victims. I agree with reform and education, but I want criminals, regardless of their ages, in a secure facility away from my family and my property. Teaching them that there are not hard consequences to their actions is not teaching them to be responsible for their actions. There needs to be more focus on family services from day 1 in high need areas, and if there are racially disproportionate high needs areas, so be it.

basic income guarantee

If you do the crime do the time! no matter what age.

Training for law enforcement and local/county/state's attorneys in dealing with and addressing the unique issues of (1) LGBTQA+ youth and (2) immigrant youth. Both populations are often ignored in these efforts -- please make sure to include them to truly achieve zero youth detention. Thank you!

Stop using social equity as a crutch. By highlighting race and telling them they have special needs because of it, ultimately tells them that they are incapable of doing the right thing and being a productive member of society simply because of their race unless they get 'special' assistance. You are not helping these people, you are enabling them. You are giving them an excuse for bad behavior and then make them feel like they are not good enough or capable. All ethnicity should be treated the same when it comes to the law and what is expected in western society. The whole social justice movement is a blight on our society and by definition creates tiers of groups who are 'more equal' than others. Shame on King County for continuing with this perspective in regards to making all of their policies.

adequate and objective prosecution

A well laid out idea of what exactly is in place instead of detention. As is you'll create a vacuum yanking the supports and tiered consequences away from kids who aren't equipped for this lack of structure. Schools did this with the implementation of Sound Discipline and violence in the classroom toward teachers and other students increased though principals were less inclined to notice or report it. You can't take consequences out of life for kids. You'll do them a disservice if you try. As a teacher I see these kinds of initiatives pushing qualified and compassionate educators out of the low income schools that most need them. So if you're taking something away you need to have a supportive system already in place to pick up the slack.

I also think you need to make it clear you're controlling for economic status and family educational levels when you talk about statistics involving racial disparities so your evidence is harder to disregard.

I hope you'll focus strongly on building up the community and really allowing this to be a ground up effort. Right now it comes across as a bit top down. You're going to lose a lot of people if you approach that way.

While I tend to agree that the less contact a child has with the legal system the better the word zero seems to be very polarizing for many in our community.

We do need to put kids who break the law and harm others in detention so the 98% of our county can feel safe! There are "bad eggs" in our world.

Fair and equitable wages, no matter the education level, is what the world needs more than anything. Too much capital/money is tied up in too few hands and corporations. Once all families, black, Hispanic, white, etc., have a secure financial situation, everything else falls into place, including reduction of detention of all children.

"Racial injustice" implies bias. I don't buy it. Yes, there are probably more blacks & Hispanic youths who enter the legal system and need services, but race has nothing to do with why they commit the crimes that put them there. To imply it is race & bias, is inherently racist! If racial injustice is the crux of the problem, then what's your answer to stopping ticking time bomb white male mass school shooters? Your survey immediately made me think of the community law enforcement policies that kept Parkland, Florida's Nikolas Cruz off the FBI radar & NICS gun database.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/mar/5/nikolas-cruz-avoided-police-scrutiny-help-obama-po/>

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/03/05/obama-era-policies-helped-keep-parkland-shooter-radar-heres-went-wrong/>

I'm sure there is a lot of intervention work that could and should be done for our troubled youth, but Dow Constantine is putting the horse before the cart if he's not first able to point to an effective alternative to the existing legal system as an entry point to services or identifying mechanism for the NICS gun database . Prove your ideas by showing us where they're working somewhere else first. Then you won't need this survey.

These are the same statements I've heard all my life. Individuals, including youth, must face punitive consequences for their unlawful actions. All these other goals should occur IN ADDITION to criminal system disposition.

Common sense. Any concern for victims. Any REAL concern for youth, teaching violent offenders that they can reoffend with zero consequences fast tracks their ruin. Severe unpleasant consequences while they are still young enough to change their ways is necessary. Jails & legal system do need reform but this approach guarantees to replace one problem with a bigger more permanent one at enormous expense (financial & safety).

Accountability. Present system nurtures criminality.

parental involvement, parenting skills

Detaining the criminal element based on their apprehension and arrests

Another utopian wet-dream. Dow "Sugar Daddy" Constantine is a fraud and a joke. We need more detention and punishment and incarceration, not less.

Education for parents on developmentally appropriate behavior, what is not "Boys just being boys", and how to effectively discipline and have clear, consistent rules and consequences. All of the things that led them to where they are now. The juveniles need hard physical work in their communities to improve their communities, and give the juveniles a sense of consequence, accomplishment and remorse. (Building/maintaining trails, landscaping at parks, helping churches and other community programs.)

need strong jobs training for youth

Lock up violent and repeat offenders so they can learn that breaking laws has consequences. We need to 1) indicate to youths that we expect them to follow laws 2) punish them when they fail to follow laws 3) provide meaningful education and work opportunities to keep them out of trouble and 4) reinforce strong family bonds to provide role models for them to follow

None of your options (except 4) do anything other than virtue signal - what a shameful waste of my hard-earned tax dollars.

As a retired public school teacher with 35 years working directly with youth & their families, as a mother of a son who was incarcerated for 3,DUIs, as someone with master's degrees in Family & Consumer Sciences, Psychology & Sociology, I believe every child is the direct product of their upbringing. Parents hold the keys for success of our children. One of the biggest factors of youth success is having 2 healthy parents involved in every child's life. If you survey the incarcerated adolescents, my educated guess is that many, if not most, are missing a parent. Every male needs a healthy father figure and every female needs a healthy mother figure. Many misbehaving male adolescents, regardless of race, have no consistent, healthy father in their lives. And many families suffer from the disease of addiction, a genetic condition that can pass from generation to generation if triggered by alcohol, marijuana, opioid, or any of the stimulants / depressants. When that happens, we are no longer able to rationalize with that person, instead, we are talking to the drug. Your theory of removing incarceration for our misguided youth will not work because it does not solve the root problems that lead our precious youth to break our federal & state laws. I have coordinated a "fathering program" at one HS where our males had 2 healthy father figures to model & teach our boys how to become healthy, successful men.

I began teaching in 1972 & have witnessed many changes in our society, and the disintegration of the father-mother-children (nuclear) family has had the greatest influence on the disintegration of our society. We cannot replace the biological need for loving parents. If you remove The Juvenile Detention Center as one of the stop-gap measures to teach these youth that there are negative consequences for negative behaviors (they have no father figure like mine who taught me that - he spent a bit of time in jails for his alcoholic behaviors!), and in turn, teach them how to manage their feelings, give them group & individual counseling, teach them how the brain is destroyed / affected by substance use, etc, then the youth I know will see no consequences at all for their illegal actions & they will run amuck.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

Diverting youth from the legal system is worthwhile as long as there is clear accountability with other alternatives and case tracking so the results can be measured.

Strong armed whipping like in Asia? Seriously, you need to consider other options. We have raised a pansy group of certain kids who are outright brats for the most part. I don't care what color they are, they need to do hard physical labor and have such a HORRIFIC experience that they are scared to death to cross the line again in bad behavior. Other countries take serious actions with youth and we are faar to easy. Incarceration? No. It's probably a relief from their family situation and they get fed. How about taking these kids and putting them out to work on roads to pick up trash, plant trees in the forests, learn to repair cars - SOMETHING active that makes them tired and they have a different outcome than the legal system? I know I for one, lived in fear of what my parents would say or do to me if I crossed their line in the sand. Today, parents can't use any sort of methods because they are turned in. So, it falls onto society. I for one want kids either in school, or at hard labor. No more allowing brats hanging out, selling drugs, breaking into houses because they will be taken away and put to work! Being in school will soon be the least painful option....

What about reducing over-policing of black, latinx, and poor neighborhoods?

Having SRO's in schools helps students, families and communities function in unison.

How can our county's legal system protect youth and their families from ICE detentions?

Fund Seattle Public schools equally and in full. Teachers are overwhelmed with too many students in a class. Few if any schools have or offer psychologist or counseling help. Community centers need to be much more involved with the school community they serve. There are too few after school programs offered especially to kids in lower income neighborhoods and to kids in Middle school (at least in my neighborhood).

By implementing policies and practices to be "less racist" you are in turn creating a racial disparity. This practices will fail when criminal youth return to their communities to further terrorize them with increasingly violent crimes.

Have proactive solutions that build up a community not as a response to trauma/violence but as a pillar of community structure. Embody a holistic approach to trauma by anticipating it and putting structures and institutions in place that steer youth away from destructive behavior before it begins to materialize.

King County is trying to sugar coat the issues. Until there is a more equal socioeconomic level, and parents can take responsibility for their children, these problems will continue, and there will be a need for these facilities. It's what happens in these facilities... a place that these youth can learn and grow and become contributing members of society. But as long as Gangs, guns and drugs are out on the street. You will have youth that find trouble. Start by having enough case workers, and services, in place, so as not to let these youth fall through the cracks in the first place. Until that time facilities are needed.

Keep law and order. Punish those who should be punished, no matter age or race.

Asking teachers to manage issues in the class room without support is asking for multiple problems. Classrooms are being so disrupted that quality teaching is not happening. School discipline needs to be addressed but there needs to be an enormous increase in staffing with well trained youth reengagement personnel. These costs should not be all on the shoulders of the local district. Keeping youth engagement programs effectively in the community the youth is from needs more support than just what the schools can provide. They also need site based support like extra class rooms.

It is entirely possible that we are arresting those who are committing crime, period. If disproportional, perhaps that lies in the offenders. Police respond, not hunt. They are being summoned to crimes committed. Perhaps all of society only calls police when youth of color are committing crime, in which case, our problem is much larger than the supposed disproportionate number of arrests. Perhaps the issue is broken families or poverty and not skin tone. We need to be very very objective and not accept a narrative.

No mention of parenting classes for parents of young children - before they become old enough to be offenders.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

What about better investigation of foster parents so that youth offenders are not placed with foster parents who require the youth to commit crimes, e.g., shoplifting, under the threat of turning the kids in for committing crimes. Ditto sexual molestation of the kids by foster parents. (I have personal knowledge of both of these occurrences.)

How do people who need the community resources find these resources? That seems to be the biggest gap - delivering services to those who need them.

Where are we going to get resources to fund and support the resources needed to strengthen communities? Culturally reflective and trauma-informed resources are expensive and often difficult to find!

I DO NOT agree with "Zero Youth Detention". I believe that youth should learn that violent actions have severe consequences. "Zero Youth Detention" removes the consequences and places the burden on the "community" - "community" is both too vague and too little prepared to deal with the most dangerous cases.

A youth kills multiple classmates in a school shootout? A youth cripples a family provider because they were driving drunk? A youth rapes women multiple times? A community cannot handle this. The community needs to be protected from this, and this is where detention comes in. Removing detention exposes everyone living in the community to life-threatening risk, while letting criminals get away with little consequence. I strongly oppose this initiative.

Consequences!!! If any person/youth of ANY color from ANY part of town steps outside legal behavior they/he/she need swift and consistent consequences that deter further criminal acts and act as an example of the negative outcomes associated with criminal activity. And if their actions are severe enough to require removing them from access to the community they hurt then GOOD. That protects US from THEM, and gives THEM a reason to behave in a civilized manner. If society needs a place to put them then BUILD ONE! Turning dangerous kids back out into the world gives us outcomes like the Parkland School shooting.

Making schools a safe place, totally eliminating all personal communication devices ( cell phones etc) during school hours

I believe that a combination of community services and an element of personal accountability could go a long way in teaching younger people to become better citizens. Most of these strategies appear to be just "trying stuff" to see what happens. The County doesn't need to throw away more money on unproven "stuff".

If a youth commits a crime as an adult, charge and detain them as an adult. Duh.

These all sound like good goals, but figuring out how to actually achieve them will be the biggest challenge. While it is desirable to reduce youth incarceration, zero does not seem feasible. There will always be a few cases where it is necessary. We need to figure out how to provide rehabilitative services to these kids and support for their families.

How will youth who have committed violent crimes or our suicidal be helped so they and the public are safe?

If youth who commit violent crime- murder, rape, robbery--are not detained, the very communities that need protection will suffer further harm and destruction.

Be sure to have plans for when these strategies just don't work. What if the parents are part of the problem?

Services need to include integrated (medical and behavioral healthcare) components.

What is the intention of King County if one of the youths addressed by this action commits a felony such as murder or grievous bodily harm?

and low-risk, not so violent offenders will be offered help instead of ignoring them because they are "violent enough" so they have to fend for themselves because there are NO services for kids who just need a little help but don't need in-patient or extended services just some study skills, a few hours of behavioral counseling and time management skills. Nobody wants to take patients that only need 2-3 sessions because its not economical or worth the doctor's time. My son's probation officer was an intern who didn't see the need to for personal check-ins because he was too low risk, but maybe those are the kids who are really at the most risk.

Getting rid of new youth jail. This is all BS, we know Dow Constantine has just created this program as smokescreen for his pet project to jail brown kids in shiny new jail.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

The family structure is becoming more & more debased. Community involvement? If the community is not very functional, one of your solution is to put them back in said community and "Have more involvement?" Can I remind you that Charlena Lyles was on a psyche hold, the judge let her out early and two big conditions were that her children not be with her nor even possess sharp kitchen utensils. We all know how that worked out and "The system" that created that situation let the police be blamed...when it was their own doing. So you think doing something akin to that on a large scale is a good idea? Bad kids are generally a product of their environment and some are just messed up. Eliminating detention is a foolish and reckless idea for most of the offenders being held.

ENFORCE the laws please!

My concern is about youth who commit serious, harmful crimes like rape, murder, and weapons possession. How would diversion ensure community safety? How would the youth be held accountable and learn different behaviors?

### Funding

Most of these problem youth come from fatherless homes and this is something the government cant correct. Letting young criminals off the hook with soft policies will not help them. The Parkland shooter was involved in a number of alarming incidents, including assault and bringing bullets to campus, yet he was coddled and appease like the policies you are condoning. This is will not help these kids and will get our kids assaulted, injured, killed.

The first time a youth is caught in criminal activity, if there are no consequences, they will go onto more serious offenses the next time. I taught high school in the Los Angeles area and have seen this first hand. Making restitution and seeing/understanding how they have harmed someone is a great learning tool. Face-to-face with victims can bring it home in a real way. When crime is anonymous - they never really meet the victim - then it is easy to disassociate.

Provide more funding to schools in low income areas. Encourage companies and successful business men and women to mentor youth from low income/ high crime areas giving them positive role models.

I would like to know what a "community-based response" is. What does that mean exactly? I'm just wanting to understand what the alternative to detention is. I know I don't want troublemakers running freely around town. We already have enough of that.

I think aiming for zero crime and zero criminals is more worthy than aiming for zero detention. This is such a stupid misguided plan.

While I agree an effective community involvement can provide a positive resource for troubled youth, I don't believe it can be achieved without a family engagement and commitment up front. I believe such an objective will be a significant challenge due to a dysfunctional welfare culture at a federal level.

Much more emphasis on families. You're making the problem everyone's responsibility except those whose it really is.

If a young person commits a violent crime, they should be put away to keep them from harming others until they have had a trial. They must be held accountable for their actions regardless of their race. They must be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin.

We are unlikely to eliminate racial disproportionality in youth systems if it continues in the adult systems. We have to do the hard work of understanding our privilege, racism and all "isms" at all levels of our community, with all ages of citizens. Policing, judicial and legal systems reflect the problems of our society at large, so resources and education are necessary for any and all of us who provide service within King County. And it is not a one-time fix - we all need ongoing work and awareness to counteract embedded bias and discrimination. If we dedicate resources and focus toward building a more just and equitable community as a whole, we will have a better chance of reducing/eliminating disproportionality in those that have to be detained.

The "how" of Objective 3 are missing/need to be outlined. The strategies are laudable, but without an understanding of how they might be accomplished, its not possible for me to answer.

What is missing is the details on what would happen to youth that commit crimes and will not obey the rules as stated above. There will always be some that will not buy into these rules and will require detention in order to protect those in the area where he/she resides. A good example would be gang members.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Teaching kids that breaking laws, stealing, hurting others, is only for people in elected offices and not normal people. Stop encouraging youths to commit crimes by being too lenient. Stop making excuses. Show more same race on same race crimes instead of pointing fingers at other races.

Objective 3: you are deluding yourself if you think eliminating incarceration is gonna' work. After I got out I had to spend months in group counseling, with my parents. The kids I met, they were gonna' do what they did regardless, and they did some scary stuff! It was only the threat of ADDITIONAL incarceration that got them into counseling to begin with and they, like me, did not give two craps about what the County people had to say. Only wanted to get out of there. It took years for all this to sink in. JAIL has to be a real and present threat otherwise the whole system is just a joke.

Budget and family incomes. To be effective there needs to be enough staff and funding for families who need help. Having great programs only go so far if real opportunities and resources to reduce day to day stress for low income/impacted families is missing. Parents also need support because they also need appropriate tools.

It all sounds wonderful. How will you accomplish? Not with a new detention center.

Family responsibility. Don't want to see more experimental programs. Prefer to keep present laws. Love to see the bible back in schools and see hearts changed.

Lock up all the criminals, whether youth or adult.

What is missing? This entire idea is INSANE, a total JOKE. What is missing is harsher sentences for crimes, restitution for victims and GUARANTEED punishment for repeated "youth" criminals that is not a country club but HARD LABOR under harsh conditions. THAT is the only thing that works, not this feel good LIBERAL BS!

A youth lead committee to discuss alternative justice options

Direct integration of policies and practice with individual neighborhood schools

Consequences are important but work best when they're based on education and work.

Adults (the community) need a better understanding of why being quick to lock kids up isn't helpful and a better understanding of how & why some kids get into trouble. I see a need for compassion from adults in the community.

Several of these questions appear to be "loaded" ones. I strongly support preventative strategies (parenting skills, positive involvement with communities, eliminating homelessness, etc.). I also believe that being banned from a school is writing the youth's future life story. However, youths who have chosen a life of crime (multiple offenses) or involvement in a violent crime (murder, rape, firearms) has chosen to act like a criminal adult, and must be separated from society.

this plan needs greater emphasis on mental health, and greater emphasis on preventing child abuse

You need to get off this racial bullshit does it matter what color red white yellow black or green you live in America and we have laws that need to be a body by if you start educating youth in school and start holding them accountable for their actions then maybe they might start to be more responsible

1) Assessment of whether the youth's existing community (friends and family) are part of the problem or part of the solution; identifying or creating a supportive community if that is lacking.

2) Separate response for violent crimes.

1) Enforcement of constitutional laws to the fullest extent allowed

2) Removal of liberal fascist agenda in our King County legal system

3) The need to remove unconstitutional laws from State/local governments

4) Promotion of Jury Nullification authority in our legal system.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

### Funding

There will need to be some formal monitoring in order to insure that the youth and their family are complying with the recommendation.

Zero detention will lead to more crime!!

Keep criminal out of street regardless of race or age please!

Early childhood education, police/gang members engagement.

All of this sounds amazing but it doesn't address the "how" of everything. Yes it would be amazing if communities are daring enough to deal with youth and offer help, etc. But how is anyone going to know where to go? How are they going to find help when they need it?

If there is no real punishment then the crimes will only progress.

Create a program that can give youths a Mentorship program that can give them someone they might be able to look up to on an individual one on one basis, like the big brother program but designed to give our youths hope that they can have a better future than the present they live in

Capable parents... which the government can never replace.

Actions have consequences for all of us. If a youth commits a crime, they need to be held accountable legally. If there is a way to provide mental or psychological help, all the better. Youth need to be detained, but they shouldn't just be warehoused and then released without assessment and assistance.

What a bunch of lips moving, more employed immigrants of COLOR that push papers and have no effect on the gangs (most of which are color) that need to be dealt with strongly.

If you want to keep a kid out of trouble, put him to work or a decent wage.

See these youths as youths, not adults making conscious decisions or actions. Teach emotional intelligence to youths as well as workers in the fields. Understanding our own behavior & what drives it is the only way to correct destructive thoughts & behavior in ourselves.

The understanding that the victims of youth crimes should be the first priority. People need protection. Many of the youth are repeat offenders and have little or no family discipline or control. Making it easy to be free and to reoffend is not the solution. Detention of those who commit crimes may not be the cure for their actions but it does protect the public which is the first responsibility of government.

Financial support for families too overwhelmed to emotionally support their kids.

Conflict resolution/communication skills training.

Strengths development: have kids learn to mentor younger kids to develop sense of competence, Pride, respect, resiliency.

Play and fun are also missing. Games requiring cooperation/teamwork for common goal.

Family. From my involvement with youth, during my children's days at high school, I've seen and talked to many single parents. Being a single parent is hard, as sometimes a single parent has no one to discuss issues to come to a frame of mind as to what to do in many circumstances. Some times a single parent needs someone to bounce ideas off of, to come to a solution. Yes, they come to a solution, but it not might be the best one possible.

We can assume that these strategies include better individual counseling and support for youth who are taken from their homes and put into foster care and group homes. Of the hundreds of incarcerated youth I have met with, less than 5% would say their group home is an enjoyable and safe environment.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Not enough is being done to help these traumatized youth to lead healthy lives.

The same goes with youth who are growing up in a community where they are vulnerable to joining a gang and using drugs and stealing. More of our resources need to be invested in the most at-risk youth in their early childhood with a perpetual support and safety net to mentor them to success. This is an investment that will change the course.

Where is accountability for their actions? Actions have consequences. Parents are responsible for raising children and teaching right from wrong, obey the law, stay in school, don't steal. If the parents aren't actively involve before a youth gets in trouble, they won't be helpful in the rehabilitation phase.

So much of this is "pie in the sky" Where have these services been all these years. There are parts of each and every objective that is positive and will work. BUT there are certain crimes and actions that require the removal of an individual from the greater population for the greater good. There are crimes and actions that require detention. You need to individualize your approach not propose a blanket solution for all individuals -- all individuals are nto the same, all crimes are not the same. Put services where there is the best chance for positive reults. In addition, the state needs to be front ending services to high risk situations and families when they first become aware of them not wait until a crisis occurs.

Look, I'm a child therapist and I work with kids who have needed to go to detention for serious issues. I would love to live in a world where zero youth detention was realistic, but I don't think this is that world. The strategies above should reduce youth detention, but saying zero youth detention is political propaganda. Can we acknowledge this is complicated? I guess "reduced youth detention" isn't as catchy, but it is fairer to everyone involved.

Dig into the reasons why youth of color is getting detained (besides the racial motivations). Are there more opportunities for early intervention and support? Are they getting enough food or shelter or other basic needs met or is that driving them to commit acts that end them up in juvie? Are there signs that we need to support these kids better before they get into trouble? What can communities do better to step in earlier? Instead of after they got detained?

Accountability, Youth need to learn that they are accountable for the choices they make. There are consequences for every choice made, be it punishment or reward. They should learn to accept the consequences for their choices.

Until we stop having broken families and out of wedlock birth you're wasting taxpayer money and you're not going to achieve your goals.

I believe that some children do commit serious crimes and need to know that they are not just going to get a slap on the wrist if you will. Yes, we need to work to support children and families to keep kids out of detention, but some crimes do require detention, but not as many as we see currently.

Common sense. Violent youth need to go to jail separate from adults, but jail. No coddling crime is on the rise. In you premise NO we don't all agree. That shows how blinded and close minded this endover is. You are looking for affirmation of deeply flawed ideas. Sad.

Youth need positive role models and programs they can engage in that will help them learn social skills and help them thrive. Instead of trying to reach youth after they are disenfranchised, let's change our tactics and reach them before the problems begin!

I am concerned about the ASSUMPTION that Zero Youth Detention is even a desirable state of affairs! I don't hear any recognition of the fact that some horrific crimes ARE committed by youth under the age of 18! By giving them a free pass with no expectation of incarceration, I believe that you are emboldening people to commit crimes without consequences.

Expectations and accountability, as always.

This is nonsense when we voters and taxpayers VOTED TO APPROVE the new youth detention facility. I agree only that youth and families need support and that ALL youth be treated EQUALLY (NOT EQUITY!!!). Tired of these radical socialist policies being foisted upon the rest of us including our children who obey the law, the US and WA Constitutions, constantly being trampled by youth and drug addicts in our communities.

Where's the option to get tougher on youth? Let's correct the problem before they become adults. Such a one sided survey

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

A much higher percentage of rape cases need to be adjudicated. In my experience, 50% or more rapes are never even reported. And of the cases that are reported, more than 90% of the time the rapist is never even charged with a crime. So why would any woman even waste her time with reporting a rape? What is the point? If rape kits are not even processed for 5 or 10 years after the crime, how is the prosecutor going to even start to build a case? I don't know why 90% or more of rapists can easily get away with it. But that is just wrong. There needs to be a way for at least the majority of women (or men) to at least get a day in court to at least attempt to get justice. Otherwise vigilantism might become the norm when all faith in the 'Justice System' is gone.

1 - Actions have consequences.

2 - You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink.

3 - All people need individual plans. Some benefit from diversion, some are so broken that only incarceration will protect the public.

What's missing is a survey which isn't slanted toward an expected outcome: starting with your telling everyone who takes the survey what you want them to think, and continuing with the fact that you're more interested in including data from your survey just by those who have been impacted by the justice system, than those who haven't- which will also give biased results which aren't statistically accurate. But then I think you know this. I have to say I've never taken a survey which is more biased towards a specific result than this. Which is unfortunate, because then the survey will not produce real results.

Perhaps actual examples of actual programs that will be implemented to reach your goal would be helpful. One of the reasons these programs haven't worked is because they include nothing but jargon of anticipated results, rather than real life goals about inspiring youth. Partnering youth and their families with mentors and leaders who give them hope, showing them how they can live a full and enriching life, reflecting on the good things they have and how to improve upon the struggles they face. How things don't fulfil and enrich your life, experiences do-and how they can manage their experiences to make them fulfilling. How they can in turn help and mentor others to do the same...

Youth along with their families need to be held accountable for their actions! Handing everyone a trophy and blue ribbon and NOT been effective.

Mentors in community

Accountability!

If we desire ZYD then why are we building a new detention facility?

A close look at what behavior is criminalized, and seek to find alternatives to criminalization and entry into the criminal justice system for young people. Once in, a vicious circle may begin.

We must also tackle poverty, inequality and segregation. King County is profoundly unequal, and very segregated by zoning laws. This perpetuates poverty, as do the disadvantages of poverty, and poverty is expensive - poor people tend to have to travel further to work, spend more time working, pay more in fees and a greater proportion of their income in taxes (thanks to Washington's regressive taxation policy).

Without tackling broader problems, we cannot achieve the laudable aims of this project.

Holding parents responsible for the actions of their children.

As outlined in the Moynihan Report 50 years ago, recognize and take actions to mitigate, the dysfunctional nature of African American culture.

Because post conviction status is SUCH a formidable barrier to employment and housing domestically and internationally, and because most people mature out of criminal blunders and even criminal lifestyle with time and education and awareness and support, there should be a clear path and incentive for infractees to have their records expunged after meeting all of the conditions of the court.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

We have Family Courts for a reason. It is nonsense to believe that NO Child Should ever be incarcerated. I agree that locking up all children is not the option. But some crimes need detention. A 4 14 year old kids that beat a homeless person to death shouldn't be going home to their parent(s). But also shouldn't be in with the adults as well. Your concept is not very practical.

What a bunch of horse-hocky. Consequences to their actions. Perhaps if we treated everybody equally, had a legal system that doles out punishment (to include jail/prison time, AND HELPED POLICE DO THEIR JOBS. Our law enforcement officers and first responders put their lives on the line every day. Yet we want to 'let go' those who choose to harm or kill them. Those who rape, steal, and murder should be punished. It's pure stupidity to "talk to them about their culture." These are NOT issues about culture, they are issues about BREAKING THE LAW. This voter, for one, is tired of the race card and lame excuses. Generations have passed since there were slaves. I owe them nothing. Immigrants come to our country; they should follow our laws. Immigrants come to my country illegally, they should be IMMEDIATELY deported. They have no rights in the USA except to be treated civilly. Send them back and let them go through the system and immigrate legally.

while it is unfortunate, lots of the family life of the chronically bad youth is horrible. putting them right back in the home is a stupid idea.

There will still be a need for some youth to be incarcerated or removed from the family that does not support them improving. What is the plan for those youths?

Creating community based councils. For non violent offenders, they should go before their peers, community and elders and that groups should decide how the youth can make things right. Zero detention is not about zero consequence. It should be about building communities qho hold our youth accountable and nurture and love them as they transition their lives.

Funding to educate neighborhoods why we need change in the present system.

Logic, reason, common sense on behalf of King County and it's prosecutor. The idea of zero youth detention is absolutely absurd, most of all dangerous. It has already been proven the idea does not work and is not effective.

Accountability for the activity in terms of who the crimes are committed against in terms of restitution or community service

Invest in early mental health services and interventions to prevent mental-health related issues leading to crime

Recognition that our communities, esp. at the family level are not strong. We don't need government intervention, we need every citizen to participate in a positive fashion to take their family responsibilities personally and seriously and to obey the laws that were made so that we could be a strong community. It has to be personal to each citizen to make it work. Dow Constantine cannot make it work just by putting another ineffective program in place.

This policy is completely foolish. Actions require consequences and if that leads to incarceration then so be it regardless of ethnicity or age.

I might not be here today if my best friend didn't go away to juvenile hall when I was 15. My life was headed down the wrong path, his was way worse. Kids need held responsible for their actions.

People must fear go to jail.

Consequences for actions - you're talking about zero detention - that's not going to be possible but it's a worthy dream. If the goal is zero detention you still have to have consequences for actions - what are those?

In general I agree with all of this. Concerns that there are some that will play this like a fiddle and there are parents/relatives that are part of the reason these kids are in trouble in the first place who will fail the process. Also, since there is 180 M available that they are talking about giving to the Mariners, why isn't some of that money going to this or perhaps to housing assistance to legit poor older ladies and men who have no resources other than The Market or CCS and the like? Take the money being spent on 35th NE from the transportation budget. No one here wants them to mess with Wedgwood. Bottom line is yes we need to help these kids. It will do nothing but make our city stronger.

It should be standard to not detain youth for immigration reasons or other non-violent crimes.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Hold parent seriously accountable for the wrongdoings of their children.

Youth as well as adults must understand there are consequences to their actions. I fear that this proposed program will soften even more than it already is the lack of consequences.

Where funding is coming from. I recommend using funds from the soon-to-expire-but-has-no-sunset hotel/motel tax revenues.

Thank you for the survey and getting public feedback.

A recognition that the issue isn't race, it's broken families.

A shift in philosophy from punishment to treatment. Community based corrections should be developed in directions determined by the communities most affected and should be funded based on medium to long-term results [rather than the short term criteria developed for homelessness efforts].

Actual equity in Seattle. If you say Seattle wants equity then let the communities lead the strategy and execution. The government has shown little competency, transparency, and accountability thus far. Fund community led task forces that are accountable to the city, and use data to validate outcomes.

You say all of this, but you're building a really big youth jail. Maybe that building could be better used for something else if the goal is Zero Youth Detention. Maybe building a big youth jail sends mixed messages to the community. I would strongly encourage you to rethink that building and it's use, especially given your stated goal.

Efforts to reduce youth detention result in youths that should be detained going free, which in turn result is events like the Florida school shooting by an individual well known to the police. You cannot implement a blanket program than incents police and courts from not doing their jobs, it will result in violence and harm.

I believe the best way to deter crime is to impose the harshest punishment allowable under the law for each infraction, regardless of race or ethnicity. Those who are "most impacted" by the legal system are probably the ones who need it the most. Tough love is the only love that works. All these initiatives will only worsen our teen delinquency problems.

Accountability and consequences from inside the family, not from Government lead resources.

An alternate to Objective 4 for those who have committed a crime and agree to Strategy b, yet return to crime. Should the penalty be more severe?

Prevent future discrimination (employment, education, housing) based on prior legal system involvement.

It's important to find solutions to help each youth regardless of his/her skin color. Don't narrow the help on certain race group. It's more important to find the cause of youth problem, and then focus on improving it. Objective 1 said youth of color are overrepresented at every phase of the legal system. Then to efficiently solve it is to find out what caused it. For instance, is it because of poverty, drug addiction, lack of education, or no community engagement? If so, target each problem and solve it. The strategy a from Objective 1 doesn't sound. How could it solve the problem by simply reducing the number of arresting of troublesome youth of color? If do so, the arrest number might be down superficially, but the problem still persists and it did not do any good to help youth in need.

Consequences

tough love and discipline.

I work in a high school and the students who seem to stay out of the legal system do so because they work. Is there any type of worker training, workforce counseling at least for those who are 16-18 range? Help the youth find work and stay busy.

In my high school, there doesn't seem to be much being done for students who are excessively truant. Is there a way to keep the youth in school, even if it's a home school type setting? If I was heading into trouble, I might like the structure of school/work. Just a thought.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

The whole premise that ZYD is necessary or good for the community is totally misdirected. It's sad but some youth definitely need to be detained for the safety of the community. Having some youth detained could possibly lead them to change their lives but giving them leniency will only encourage criminal behavior. And shame on King County for making this about race. I don't care what color someone is, if they've committed a crime, the legal system SHOULD BE color blind.

The county should avoid being overly accommodating to disruptive young people. They can have negative effects on other young people if they're allowed to remain in the community and classrooms despite displaying consistently disruptive behavior.

Have 6th grade youth get 1 hour a week class about where they can get help, what happens when they break the law, and teach respect for community and police. Have them go out into the community and preform clean up and help the elderly and physically handicapped. This should be voluntary so they learn how vandalism and small crime effect the community, and can lead to bigger crimes of youth...if it continues...youth of color are arrested more because family involvement is not there,

Lock them up what the hell look what is going on in Seattle or Burien you people are the problem

These plans will not work and will only increase crime not stop it

Break laws, get caught, serve punishment. Segue into adulthood playing by the same rules as adults and deal with consequences of your actions. I dont support these objectives.

There is no mention about what to do with hardened criminals that will not respond to community resources or any other of your magic programs. Such youth exist and must be dealt with rather than putting your head in the sand and pretending that all juveniles will respond to your strategies.

Prevention. What can society do to prevent behavior that puts young people at risk. Places to go and hang out with friends is an example.

Minorities also are responsible for a disproportionate number of the crimes. This program has been tried in other communities and results are mixed at best, with "youth" getting the benefit of these get out of jail free card programs going on to commit more crimes, often violent ones.

instilling personal responsibility teaching the difference between right and wrong, good and evil

Haven't defined crime. Is it a minor crime or felony? First Offence?, etc.

You're making this a racial issue. It is not.

It's a crime issue. If one race has a higher proportional arrest rate than another, stop blaming the arrestors! A crime is a crime regardless of the race of the person arrested! If blacks have a higher arrest rate than Asians or Caucasians, then one must look at the home environments of the blacks arrested.

Respect for our laws is NOT being taught nor enforced in these families! Without that, the kids are already pointed in the wrong direction for survival in the rest of society. Spending our money toward the encouragement of obeying the laws is vital! When a child breaks a rule there is a consequence. It's called LEARNING. I grew up with a respect for law and order and the thought of being put in jail scared the crap out of me! If we stopped sending criminals to jail do you really think that would suddenly give a criminal a healthy incentive to follow the law? I think Constantine is way off base here!

details are missing but this is a great start.

Mentoring options

Troubled youth need access to confidential mental health counselors or mentors.

What's missing is common sense about taking personal responsibility for actions. To infer and state that incarceration is racially motivated absolves those committing infractions.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I have serious issues with the wording of the questions. The assumption is that if you agree with the objective, you agree with all the strategies. It makes no sense to ask for input when there are no other alternatives. It feels like it is all or nothing. Way to far. Needs a lot more common sense strategies.

Provisions to address the victims of their juvenile criminality and this really sounds like just another government program to be staffed at increased public expense. I have given an incorrect e-mail address because I do not trust government promoters of expanded "services" that are racially oriented!

Provide prevention care from birth to parents that provides education about infant care, maternal depression, nutrition, developmental milestones etc; Appropriately fund community mental health centers and employ well qualified practitioners who deliver evidence based models of individual therapy for both caregivers and kids and theoretically based family therapy. Invest in the child welfare system so that it is trauma informed and well qualified professionals provide care management. Adequately fund foster care providers and provide them with training and support to reduce numbers of kids abused in foster care and blown placements due to behavioral/ emotional problems. Adequately staff and train staff in secure facilities to reduce trauma exposure when kids do need to be detained. Get real about the effects of trauma exposure, related stress and their relationship to juvenile offending behaviors... invest in kids and caregivers and parents with the resources needed to really address the problem.

Education is missing. Training refers to counselors, not youth. School is referred to once in the correct way. Useful skills in the employment marketplace are what will keep youth out of the system. I see little that will change how at 15 year old views education and getting out of the cycle of crime.

Support for very young children and their families would help to eliminate problems with older youth.

How about keeping them out of trouble in the first place. This is all hogwash! So now we are going to put on the county what the parents of these youth should have been doing in the first place. The county is not taking over the role of a parent because these parents are either unwilling or unable or uncaring to do it themselves. Now taxes are going to pay to raise these youth in a hope to keep them off the streets and doing the things they should not be doing? Why don't we bill their parents for raising their children for them? You talk about keeping the family stable within the community and yet you have plans to try and put programs in place to raise these youth? This is crazy and we need to go back to the parents raising their kids with values and purpose.

The Stonewall Douglas shooter was referred to the Promise Program, a reform program for students that eases student punishment and lessens their arrests. I believe they have made changes to the program since the shooting. For anyone who breaks the law, there should be a form of discipline; there needs to be accountability for their actions. Detention doesn't help, I believe this will keep them in the system. For youth something more like community service and a reformation program.

The premise of a disproportionate amount of certain races being incarcerated equating to racial injustice is a faulty logic. Some peoples commit more crimes, this is a fact. You should be looking into what is going on in those cultures that leads to disproportionate criminality.

Any youth committing a crime should be given one break. Beyond that, commit the crime, do the time. A youth committing a crime with a firearm should be incarcerated for a minimum of two years. With the increase of youth crime in King County, especially gang involved, needs to be taken seriously. Quit coddling these young criminals. If they knew the penalties related to the crimes they are considering, it would help reduce their actions. I am a retired high school administrator (almost 80 yrs old) and found throughout my career of 52 years that young people, knowing their rights, limits, responsibilities and consequences soon learned how to succeed in the real world. Today, too many young people have no respect for others -- or the law. Lack of parental guidance and discipline -- especially in single parent households, contribute to the young people getting into trouble. They know that no matter what they do, there are not consequences. What you are proposing in this idiotic proposal will not help young people. You are telling them -- just do what you want, we will coddle you and then you can go out and do more wrongs. This kids are smart and will quickly see how stupid adults initiating these proposals are. It's time to get tough on youth crime!

Recruiting adults / counsellors etc. who have been in the system previously to interact with at-risk youth.

Hold even minors accountable as appropriate to the crime they committed. It is obvious giving them a free pass only leads to them committing more and bigger crimes. The tuba man killer where let off and killed again is an example of how well letting then off lets them re-offend.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

Holding the offenders and their families accountable.

Deep human problems do not have human solutions

It talks of 'family' but so many offenders do not have a family as usually defined. There needs to be a full effort to get those in need of a working family placed in a secure situation.

Criminals will be criminals. Don't go soft on them.

Dangerous youth should be detained at their first offense.

Law is law. Whoever committed crime should be punished, regardless age or race. Parents are supposed to teach kids to obey law and accept the consequences if they don't obey.

Something government can not offer, stronger two parent families

This is ridiculous! Someone commits a crime they should do the time and make it as miserable for them as possible. If these kids knew that the consequences are dire than perhaps they would think twice about committing crimes. Jail with no tv, awful food, solitary confinement, you name it!

When a child misbehaves, there should be an appropriate and equal negative action such as community work. This would be to discourage further misbehavior. I believe that children need an appropriate reaction to their misbehavior. I don't think detention facilities really help

Judges often use police determination of whether the offender is a nice person who made a mistake or a bad person to make a decision. These subjective opinions should not be allowed.

A realistic look at violent crimes committed by youth as well as any relevant experience on the part of politicians or prosecutors. How often have they or anyone in their families been victims of violent crimes? Will they be living in the neighborhoods effected by the policies they are about to enact? Will their children be attending the same schools as those youth committing crimes? Violent crime is the symptom not the disease.

Holding youth accountable for their actions and making sure they learn a lesson by not being pampered and told the problem isn't them but society.

criminals need to be punished. these social experiments have failed. go back to enforcing the law and be colorblind

How do we pay for these programs? In order to give support and counseling to at risk youth we have to pay and educate the individuals and community members that will interacting with these youth. This includes training at all levels of the community. How will this be funded?

Kids need better parents

Accountability. I believe community service vs. detention. For example, create programs that "fit the crime" so consequences are learned. Caught vandalizing with graffiti? Sentence of X hours cleanup. I work in Seattle. Biggest frustration is unaccountability for actions.

Eliminating the potential for youth that have been arrested or are in the detention system from being placed into adult jails because all other facilities are crowded.

Stop dreaming and face reality. Stop blaming the judicial system and the police. The interventions need to be for an individual family or specific community. The problem is not with the judicial system. It is a dysfunction of the individual, family, or specific community. Stop blaming the people and the systems that protect us.

Your brain, I suspect. How ridiculous. Nip it in the bud. Neglecting to correct bad behavior in youth will lead to worse behavior as adults. You are wrong, wrong, wrong. We have half as many police officers as any other city this size, AND IT SHOWS! Criminality of all sorts is rampant in King Co. There is no problem with White supremacists in King Co. There is a problem with street people-- they're NOT homeless--it's a CHOSEN lifestyle. The city counsel is corrupt + criminal. Socialists did this to Seattle, 1 party rule did this

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

to Seattle, ignorant bleeding heart voters did THIS to Seattle. You've absolutely RUINED Seattle. You got just what you wanted, admit it, please. There are way too many useful idiots in Seattle, you used them. You can have it. I won't be paying for SDOT sins for the rest of my life, I'm voting with my feet. 19th century technology IS SDOT. How damned sad.

I fear that the new youth jail will tout itself as a provider for these various needs. The answer is not a new youth jail if we want to work toward the goal of zero youth detention. No matter how the county labels the new jail, it will forever be just that. Alternatives to incarceration do not blossom out of the roots of incarceration itself - use the money for the new jail and invest instead in community led opportunities. Stop overpolicing poor communities. Stop expelling and suspending youth of color. Invest in teachers and community leaders who understand what living on the margins in a predominantly white, overly expensive, and at times unlivable city like Seattle looks like. Those in positions of power should be willing to relinquish that power to those most impacted by systemic subjugation. Take a grassroots approach over a top-down approach.

I think this is great in theory but there are some who only learn the hard way, so there needs to be something in place for those that need that learning experience.

Incarceration is a must for certain youth, children that learn consequences are able to better understand them as adults. While in jail, young kids should be exposed to education and mentoring, and how to become active in their communities in good ways so they are productive citizens when released.

Recognition that girls of color are disproportionately represented in detention populations and are the fastest growing group in detention; recognition that behavior that leads to detention is often rooted in unaddressed trauma and that detention causes further trauma -- traumatizing detention does nothing to address underlying trauma

[1] parental involvement. Parents taking the lead, with county support.... not the other way around.

[2] If a young person commits a heinous crime and needs to be locked up, Lock them up. Regardless of race or whatever buzzwords are the rage nowadays

It is reasonable to assume that youth offenders have rarely been "caught in the act" the very first time they make a bad choice. There must be consequences for bad decisions. Western WA has a history of letting people off the hook and this is unacceptable. Young people who choose behavior that is corrosive to our social fabric must face consequences. However, they must also be given opportunities to succeed and grow.

The objectives are noble. However, a number of youth are committing very serious crimes. Diversion from the legal system may put communities in more danger than they already are. The idea that detention needs to fit the racial distribution of society is ridiculous. Reactions to a certain type of crime should be the same no matter what the race. If a certain minority commits more crime, then detention figures should be somewhat skewed.

The main issue that should be addressed system-wide is implicit racial bias. Why are youth of color being arrested and convicted at a much higher rate? Why are they receiving much harsher sentences? Will you be addressing the racial bias in judges who are making these life-changing decisions in court? I certainly hope so. Perhaps they all need to read *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo, *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, or some good ol' diversity training could be provided for them, and if they do not change their ways, get them out of there. It's time all us white people not only open our eyes to our privilege but also become conscious of our own racial biases, and work very hard to change them.

Individual ratings of strategies: obviously improving material conditions for kids and their families will prevent crime (objective 4 strategy f, but I'm not so sure about some of the other strategies)

What's missing is that if youth break the law, they need to be arrested. My son was arrested from his workplace, put in hand cuffs and scared! What he stole was only a misdemeanor and he returned it. But the process of being "taken in" scared sense into him! When I was young, there were detention centers where youth were taken so they weren't exposed to adults....and hardened criminals. Then counseling would be in order. But I am against ZERO Youth Detention. By default, it seems that's what King County has now. It's not working!

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Community work projects with visible outcome in lieu of detention punishment. For instance, painting, construction, yard projects for elderly or infirm in the community or some other projects that have concrete outcomes. Not community service that just ticks the box for hours spent. Help youth to be accountable to the community for their indiscretions.

You do not address gangs or the fact that they could involve multi-generational gang involvement.

I do not want to share the streets with violent offenders, offenders who used fire arms, assault...you talk so much about how you are going to 'help' someone who commits crimes. That's great, but what about their victims? Turning them loose back into the same community as their victims is where you totally loose me.

Remember the Tuba Man murder? Remember how many people had to die before that kid was locked away for good as an adult? I do.

This whole plan reads like unicorns and rainbows.

There are no adequate 'services' for the mentally ill kids or adults.

By all means - Don't prosecute offenders and leave the juvenile delinquents on the streets so they can commit more crime..... And people wonder what is wrong with America.....

In my mind, a youth who is acting out is usually the victim of a dysfunctional family. Most of the efforts to keep troubled children in the home fail to make an honest appraisal of the emotional health of the home environment. Getting them out of a home can sometimes offer the perspective that they need. I think back to the Charlena Lyles tragedy... Who on earth thought that a woman who was struggling with such severe mental health issues could be a good parent? Those poor children! Shoving them into the same apartment with an occasional visit from a caseworker is cheap, I guess. Keeping kids in crappy homes under the mistaken belief that "family and culture is everything" serves nobody but idealistic fools. Also, I think that overrepresentation of ethnic youth "in the system" probably correlates quite accurately to the overrepresentation of the criminal acts that they committ. Poverty, single parent households, undereducated parents and or parents with their own unresolved psychological issues can cause life-long detrimental effects for a child in the first months of life. That those circumstances occur at higher rates in some sub-sets of our society matter not. The issues should be based on a per child basis. I support incarceration that involves quality one on one psycotherapy over any feel-good "culturally" sensitive approaches of prioritizing family or chasing race quotas. Its two issues - help children who are headed down the wrong path and protect society from them so long as they are on that path.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! This is excellent and so very needed.

You will never achieve zero. It is a goal that is unachievable. Sometimes separation is required for the good of the community at large.

You are using the term equity incorrectly. Equity connotes ownership, the program is trying to promote equality, which does not include any ownership.

Parental support/counseling in how to deal with kids at risk of being detained.

Your brains and your balls, fuck you.

I would like to see King County prosecutors receive training on existing community-based options, and both training and supervision in systemic racism and implicit bias. I would be interested in 'utilizing data and technology to optimize connections' with understanding patterns in prosecutorial discretion. I think all of these Objectives are well-intentioned, but looking upstream seems to be a more effective way to get zero youth detention instead of expanding the net to catch them (I understand and would expect the KC to be working on both ends, but I wish the focus on the power prosecutors have to change this was highlighted more here).

I think Objective 4 sounds like a 'catch-all' statement...I generally agree with all of those things, but I'm not sure I have enough information to support the strategy. I'd be interested in specifics of how the new strategy of 'reengaging youth from detention into community' is any different than what's happening now?

One strike and they go to jail

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Some juveniles are a danger to the community and those few individuals must be dealt with in a way that protects the community.

I have read and agree with the concepts ."restorative justice"

Preventing youth from becoming criminals has to start at home and then reinforced at church (or whatever religious affiliation) and schools. Schools teach so little morals these days, and it seems that the general populous is moving towards no-accountability by ignoring religion (or, at least, the 10 commandments). If we want these youth to reform, it will be difficult and cost the taxpayers a ton of money, especially if they never had a correct moral upbringing. Teach kids the golden rule every day when they are at school: "treat others as you would want them to treat you". Then the world would be a better place.

I feel division is appropriate for minor crimes, but to come up with this plan that applies to all crimes is wrong headed. Each individual situation needs to be analyzed and the appropriate action taken. This plan is a hope and prayer!

Disappointed the survey wasn't structured so I could rank each individual strategy. "Disagree" response given because I did not agree with all the strategies.

I work in partnership with King County Juvenile Detention. I am there everyday of the week, what I see is youth of color over represented and spending more time in secure detention than white counterparts. When given the chance for release of youth on home electronic monitoring, some parents are not present in their lives to allow youth to be released, resulting in longer stays in secure detention. How is it the youth's fault their parent isn't present for them? In addition, what is the cost of this service? What kind of support are the youth and families provided? I think these are all great ideas but resources are thin, and quality care and management is oftentimes lacking. I speak with the youth daily, today I asked every youth in my class who their role model is in their families? The answers were striking, as most youth confessed they didn't have any role models or support from their family members. How do we change this? To have thriving communities we need thriving nuclear families.

It breaks my heart to see these youth in their neon sweatshirts, blue pants and slides knowing they aren't provided the proper services they so desperately need and deserve both inside and outside juvenile detention. Mental health is severely lacking inside juvenile detention and in our communities. What is your plan to make change? Building relationships is what helps keep people accountable this is why community based partners are necessary for the health and well-being of our communities.

Furthermore, recognizing all these factors in your road map is great, but what action are you going to combat these issues?

Youth, just as any other person, who breaks the law and endangers others need to be punished and away from citizens that they can harm.

The main problem are the parents or lack of in the house and the ability to raise a child. Unless you are willing to accept that in my (black) community, a majority of our youth are missing at least one parent and the majority are born out of wedlock, there will be little success.

Support and services for LGBT youth specifically

The County needs MORE youth detention. If when young there are no consequences for breaking the law that applies to all races equally, the County trains a criminal ;law breaker for life. The community will be harmed and many maimed and some killed to no consequence? Criminal gangs will hire those under 18 to do harm. Duh! Eventually after countless harm, criminals that may have been saved through punishment will end up in jail in any event...unless the County wishes to break every social contract to keep its population safe from lawbreakers no matter their race or age. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I can't believe this has even been proposed.

We constantly see that the effectiveness of training is not proportionate to desired outcomes. There needs to be a way for those that feel they are being directly or indirectly discriminated against (or for those who witness co-workers being discriminating) to make their experiences known and believed.

We need community services that give kids and family a choice not to engage in behavior that leads to legal involvement.

And, as with the 'justification' of Tamir Rice's murder, ageism is intersectional in racism. In the case of Sandra Bland, sexism (masculine dominance) is intersectional to racism. All support systems need to understand the importance of intersectionality.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

It would be nice to address plans for supporting those experiencing social/economical disparity and what specific diversion strategies could be implemented.

having worked in youth detention, i believe that there are indeed dangerous criminals in which terrible violent crimes have been committed by youth, and society needs to be protected from these individuals until they and their families have received intensive therapy, which they would not participate in unless incarcerated. i understand the community wants zero youth incarceration, but the reality of that happening with some crimes is impossible, in my opinion.

I believe the youth of today do need more community resources and role model type programs mostly due to the decayed family structure in today society. I don't feel problem youth should be not be accountable for there actions though. Troubled youth will love your no accountability programs!

Juveniles who commit crimes should not be exempt from punishment so, YES, we need a juvenile detention facility!

Need to ensure mental health services are provided.

Hold people and youth responsible for their actions, quit trying to babysit offenders.

I am rather concerned by what I'm reading here. It's sad to see that King County has been so pushed by the loud minority of zero-youth-detention advocates that it's gotten to the point that I'm even reading about this program. The biggest thing that this program is missing is that the program has the false idea that we need to enforce ethnicity-based detention statistics.

It's hard for me to even explain, in words, why this is, but let me try: if someone commits a crime, they should be punished for that crime by the legal system. If we attempt to enforce prosecution based off of the distribution of ethnicities, we run the very likely outcome of not prosecuting any group that happens to commit crimes at a higher rate, when viewed via ethnic group. It seems foolish to me to view criminal data by race and then draw the conclusion that some ethnicities are being unfairly prosecuted/targeted by the justice system. Let's look at it this way: if we looked at crime data and saw that more crimes were being committed by left-handed people, and that left-handed people were disproportionately being represented in the criminal-justice system, could we similarly assume that the criminal-justice system is unfairly targeting left-handed people?

We must take race out of picture here. We must not enforce some requirement that crimes are prosecuted in proportion to the distribution of ethnicities in a population, because this presupposes that criminal activity is equally distributed amongst all ethnic groups. Although I'm sure that it would be easy to read the following and assume that it comes from a position of ignorance and racism, please try to be objective and consider that it could be accurate: it is very possible that if you look at criminal data by different groupings of the population you would see that people in some groups do, indeed, commit crimes at a higher rate than other groups. If those groups happen to be ethnic minorities, this does not mean that these groups are being unfairly treated by the criminal-justice system. Until we understand why a certain grouping of the population commits crimes at a higher rate, we must not assume that something nefarious/racist/etc. is going on, and we must certainly not change the criminal-justice system to decriminalize criminal behavior, based off of ethnic grouping.

Zero youth detention is not a desirable goal. It puts most of us in the community at risk. Some juveniles, just like some adults, NEED to be detained.

I think all the objectives and strategies listed above sound great and seem to be very comprehensive but this is all a bunch of words. To actually follow through on all these objectives and strategies is going to take a lot of skilled, highly trained people and a lot of money. It seems to be so difficult to get any government at any level to actually put the time, money, training and commitment into such a long-term program such as has been described in all the Objectives above.

Develop mentors for at risk youth that have walked in their shoes, but have overcome their challenges.

Too many thugs are getting let out of jail or getting away with hurting other people with no consequences. Stop it.

This effort does not reassure me that someone - regardless of race, background, etc - will be held accountable for their actions if they break the law, and how repeat offenders will be handled. A similar programme was instituted in Broward County Florida, with utterly DISASTROUS consequences. Sometimes people just need to be punished and not constantly 'diverted' because of political considerations.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

Without consequences to their actions these kids will just wait out your little program and be right back to committing crimes.

Maybe with this program there will be more white criminals and you can toot your horn on how you have created equality. Just stay focused on the behavior and not the color of the people. Oh yeah and hire more police officers so they can do their jobs properly.

The problem is that out-of-wedlock births have skyrocketed. The percentage of kids who are facing Juvenile Detention who do not have a father in the home is extremely high. Until we address that elephant in the room, much of this is just dealing with the symptoms rather than the root cause.

Further, there has to be consequences for actions and to say to juvenile delinquents that if they do something wrong they will just get a slap on the fingers means that they are going to continue to do those wrong things when there are no consequences. I think this will increase crime.

I don't believe this is the problem of the legal system. It is more about prevention rather than making law powerless.

Gang members, violent crimes, any type of felony that a minor is involved in they should get jailed in a juvenile jail. The reoccurrence of a crime by the same juvenile, the juvenile should be put in juvenile jail. The parents need to be better involved in their child's life so parent education would be very important resource for the parents.

law and order keeps our community safe. regardless of race, age, sex, whoever commits a crime must face with the consequence of prison. period!

Talking about race is stupid it should just be youth.

You are missing the WHOLE point. Though these strategies may "sound good" this county/state has no intention of implementing them as stated and have no ability to implement them as stated given the current laws which absolutely empower emotionally disturbed youth (the ones who are committing the crimes!)...YOU ARE LIARS!!! You say you want to support families to keep kid in their homes and provide quality community based services for children, but your policies act to disempower parents and your community based supports are USELESS. I know because we spent years in community based services trying to get our foster-adopted daughter the help she needed for her early childhood trauma and multiple mental health diagnosis, but it did nothing but make the problems worse. As for my foster-adopted son this state's juvenile court system did nothing to hold my son accountable for his choices and behavior. If they had set up some boundaries for him and enforced them, then maybe we wouldn't have had to send him to Nevada to get the help he needs. Thankfully, Nevada takes things more seriously and after spending 6 months in his residential program, he put himself in juvenile detention for 2 weeks for attempted assault. When they called me, I THANKED them from the bottom of my heart for caring enough about my son to hold him accountable. Because of this experience, he is now taking his treatment program seriously and is committed to turning his life around BECAUSE he does not want to go back to juvie and understands that there are consequences for his behavior including running away from the program which he did multiple times; something this wretched state does not understand. In fact at one point when he was a runaway here in King County, a police officer returned him to us and my son looked him in the eye and told him that he had been shoplifting and breaking into cars and the office ignored him. It left my son asking "Where is the line that I can't cross and why do they not care enough about me to hold me accountable for my behavior?" My son was crying out for help because he knew he was out of control and needed help and so we were forced to send him out of state to get that help. A family should not be divided because this state refuses to have residential treatment programs for children with early childhood trauma. Bottom line, when my kids were struggling and in need of juvenile court system involvement because they were self-sabotaging their lives with their choices and making themselves vulnerable to being victimized, there was not a single system that had any ability or power to do anything to help them and everyone in those programs sorrowfully knew they had failed my children including the mental health system at Seattle Children's, youth shelters, community based mental health services, school staff, community based wrap-around services, At Risk Youth staff, social workers, police, judges, etc. I believed that the majority of these people cared about my children, but they did not have the power to do anything to help them. My children had amazing teachers, were adopted by a loving 2 parent family, received years of mental health treatment and had adult mentors that cared about them, but they still chose to follow in the path of their homeless and drug addicted biological parents. You want to really help kids, change your incompetent policies, re-empower parents and youth workers and stop being afraid to hold children accountable for their behavior regardless of their skin color then and only then, I might care a little bit about anything you might have to say on the topic.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

The slogan is misplaced and stand in the way of helping the offender and victims of crime. For first time offenders of course there should be family intervention and consoling but some sociopath just can't be helped. In such case you have to protect the public and not let political correctness get in the way.

An appropriate level of prosecutorial involvement in the process prior to diversion.

Why are you trying so hard NOT to punish kids who commit crimes no matter their race. Zero incarceration is not only dangerous but a total waste of tax dollars. Not everyone wants to live a clean law obeying lifestyle. Stop wasting our tax dollars on these ridiculous things and punish crimes! Maybe strong enforcement will deter these criminals!

Drug resources

Strong and free daycare system. The seeds of antisocial behavior start long before these kids become teenagers.

Addressing addiction, mental health, housing, child sex trafficking (leading to runners from dependency system), improving education, increasing safe spaces - group homes, cluster foster homes, activity centers with teen specific models, mentors, connections to caring, safe adults

Children must learn to be responsible for their actions as well as their parents.

Children must be responsible for their conduct.

parenting education for troubled children -required

Support for educators who serve these youth, as well as support for families/care givers.

NO NEW YOUTH JAIL -- DON'T BUILD IT -- DIVERT THE FUNDS

Sanity and accountability

Parent involved. Decrease gang affiliation which tends to be stronger to youth

you have listed 'strategy' but only entered goals. there is no way to determine effectiveness if you don't have a clear strategic steps

Sometimes detention provides the services youth need, in a consistent and structured manner, that cannot be accessed when they are lost on the streets, or in dysfunctional home situations. One reason there are so many homeless today is because we no longer shelter and care for the mentally ill in institutions.

I don't believe there is any racial discrimination. If a youth commits a crime, that youth should pay the consequences whatever the race is.

You communist liberals are living in a fictional pipe dream.

You say this isn't a race thing yet you start out with racial subjects.

We are not judging race, but the behavior that follows. it just so happens that certain races commit more crimes than others that is a fact that any type of smart individual or legal organization can follow.

That we aren't deporting illegals.

Early intervention at the family level when the first criminal conduct is detected. King County had a 'Youthful Offender' program in the mid to late 1970's that was extremely effective in reducing recidivism. The family was offered the opportunity to choose family counseling instead of a juvenile court referral. Counseling began within days of the offense. I can tell you as a KCSO deputy at the time that the results were incredibly good. A guaranteed source of funding and interdisciplinary cooperation will be essential if the program is to succeed. You can do this if all community touch points work as a team.

1. Consequences for poor choices.

2. Logic

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

3. A rudimentary understanding of human nature.
4. Giving each person basic respect for their understanding of right & wrong, from the widely accepted "age of reason" - 7 years old.
5. Respect for citizens' hard-earned tax dollars — to waste public money on such far-left fringe policy promotion.
6. Respect for citizens' intelligenc - promoting this horrible policy as 1) a social justice cause & 2) a progressive improvement for society. This is an insult to the young people you pretend to want to help and a kick in the teeth to the voters and crime victims.

It is ludicrous to assume that the racial representation of juveniles in the legal process or in detention should match the racial representation of the population. The racial representation in the legal system and in detention SHOULD MATCH THE RACIAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUTH COMMITTING CRIMES.

If a disproportionate percentage of minority youth are in the legal system and detention due to having committed more crimes, then lessening the penalties for those crimes will have an effect OPPOSITE from the intended goal of reducing minority precipitated criminal and legal activity.

In order to address the real problem of a disproportionate percentage of minority youth committing crimes, one would need to intervene at the far younger stage, and with more emphasis on family culture improvement.

In such an environment, any attempt to lessen the consequences of minority youth committing crimes in order to make headway in reducing minority involvement in the legal and detention systems is reverse discrimination, pure and simple.

Criminals actually obeying the damn law. That's missing. Also missing is the government caring more about the victims and the law abiding. Right now you care more about pandering than actually preventing crime.

Missing is actual leadership.

Missing is an effective government.

Missing are my employees (that's you!) who aren't weak minded fools who kiss the ass of criminals and hamstring law enforcement on a daily basis.

While the sentiment and ideals ring true, I'm far from confident that KC can actually put these into practice in a way that reaps meaningful results.

Probably, as usual, enough money to hire enough case workers. Best of luck!

They need to have extremely harsh punishment for violent crimes. If it's not a violent crime then it's different, but folks who hurt others, whether they are 15 yrs old or 50 shouldn't matter, crime is crime. If there's no consequence for their actions they won't be scared to commit crimes.

Some youth need to be contained for their own protection and some others need to be contained for the protection of the community. Certainly we should work to reduce detention through primary prevention, early intervention, quality and comprehensive services and coordination of services from multiple systems. But my experience informs my belief that zero detention is a faulty and dangerous goal.

Reduced consequences for offenses did not work very well in Parkland. It's unfortunate that more minorities end up in detention, but if they are the source of the majority of the crimes, it makes a lot of sense. What needs to change are the reasons minorities end up in a disproportionate amount of criminal activities.

Something is off. Altruistic, certainly. However, the community programs are often ineffective and inefficient. I have homeschooled and raised 7 wonderful children to adulthood. They did not have issues with the law, no teen pregnancy, no gang involvement; and they went on to be honor students in college. I have returned to college and will shortly receive a degree in Marriage and family. I have spent a life time pondering how to best help society. It starts with us as individuals. It moves to couples and how they choose to set up house (married, single, etc.). It moves to parental involvement. Get the churches involved. Programs with the purpose of supporting marriage and families is vital. Help wayward children by helping their families. Mentor parents on positive parenting.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Teach "Family councils" so that teens feel they have impact on their lives. Race has been studied, but focus on building/mentoring strong families is imperative. How do we help people get from where they are to a healthier place? We teach them. We heal them. We mentor them. We get real and not caught up in the surface. Ask each individual "what is really going on? . . .What do you need to have different/ what would your ideal world look like?. . .If we lived in an ideal world, what would you want your life to look like?" I did this annually with each of my children, individually; and I have taught this to large audiences of parents. It works brilliantly. Everyone gets personally involved. People want to be heard. They rebel when they feel irrelevant and have no say. There are boundaries.

So, while your four objectives are a start, I believe you are missing something at the core.

Diversion etc. should not be used with violent or otherwise dangerous offenders.

Reality is missing. Race is not an issue here. Illegal and anti-social behaviors by minors are the issue. No person should be selected or deselected for detention on the basis of their race or sex or other discriminating factor. However, if a person commits or is involved in a criminal or anti-social act or behavior; then, they should encounter the full and equal administration of the State legal codes, and should be held to the full and equal application of the system. This is especially true for juveniles who need to learn that certain acts and behaviors have consequences that will be imposed by competent authority. Excusing miscreants on the basis of age, race, sex, social strata or other discriminator IS unfair discrimination and should never be so unequally applied.

Awareness that simply working toward a goal of "zero detention" based on age calls for a willful ignorance of the facts of each case that may put that young person in touch with the legal system. I would never support tax dollars going toward an approach that sought to boost incarceration of young people simply because they are young people; to do the reverse is just as troubling.

Sounds good to me!

The entire premise of this scheme is completely flawed. The only true way to "increase racial equity" is to treat everyone equal.

King County needs to completely dismantle the race industry and quit discriminating people based in skin color.

This survey is biased to lopsidedly support the agenda of the survey strategies. The questions asked do not allow a response to issues of the community. There are many ways to address the issues and this survey is only asking whether you support this one philosophy King county is pushing, not the best way to use the resources available.

Some youths can be just as dangerous as adults and have less experience in life.

What is the process that would be implemented to determine if an individual is responsive to the diversion process - not just an agreement to participate with the end goal of staying out of detention. I feel that there are some activities that result in detention - for all individuals and not just minorities. I think that it is naive to believe that zero detention is a good blanket approach.

Any kind of actual honesty with the problem. This sounds like throwing money at a non issue. You're trying to reinvent the law and give kids who don't care more things to not care about. Address the family issues, the spoiled nature of our culture, and make these kids take responsibility. Stop shielding them from a life you're too scared to let them live.

In some instances, the youth need psychological evaluation, counseling, life-coaching, family intervention, and intense daily structure to bring change. How do you address the socio-economic inequities of minorities living in poverty? Do we really have a support system that can provide what's needed to keep youth from reoffending without a detention center? There must be a balance to protect communities.

Strategies: d, e, f are lofty sounding generalities. Explain details, otherwise it means nothing! What exactly does that look like for a juvenile?

Strategy a, b, HOW? Needs more explanation. All strategies: How will the county find funds for all of this?

Crime against person or property should be punished. Drug crimes not as much.

No explanation in how this is different from already existing programs or where the budget for proposed programs will come from. What is the timeline for implementation?

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

You don't seem to have a plan to deal with the peer group and the "values" of that group.

How about parents actually parenting and teaching these kids that there is right and wrong. The story about the kid getting hit by a car doing some dance challenge, first of all, don't you think common sense says not to leave a moving vehicle? but no, now we need news stories to tell parents and kids not to do it. We're babying these kids and they're growing up stupid. Survival of the fittest. Natural selection. Mother nature will find a way.

Actual policies and procedures to retrain police away from handcuffs and toward redirection

Actual policies and procedures to retrain education staff away from arresting children for misbehavior and toward supporting and redirecting services

Reducing/eliminate the presence of law enforcement officers in schools, as the primary outcome appears to be more arrests of non-white youth

Objective 4 looks good, but the last one to reduce court involvement would be bad. If youth don't have to go to court for their crimes how do you expect them to know it will be harder on them when they turn 18. My family has had with family members in jail and courts and they didn't care. They see it as getting caught and they will go back to doing the same things when they get out. Treatment and training on how to live a normal life when they get out would be nice. The other problem is they go back to the same areas where the same people they got into trouble with are so it happens again. They need a new place to start over.

We must consider that African-American/Black children are falling way behind and not meeting academic standards a lot of the time. This is not their fault. We must have fully funded education, culture sensitive teachers, and appreciate curriculum for kids of all colors. The outcomes we want need to start from the bottom. The financial inequality of primarily black schools to primarily white schools is unfair and must be addressed. Train cops to stop the racism and focus in getting kids better education so they see a future for themselves. Show them college is an option no matter what-right now it feels unaffordable to many.

I strongly agree that problems at home lead certain youth into criminal or delinquent activity. However, I do feel that having to experience the legal process of facing courts, detention, etc is a good learning experience and could help show a young person that there are very very real and negative consequences to their actions. Trying to have them avoid the courts and detention completely could create an illusion that petty crime is "OK" because all they will have to do is take some classes. However, I strongly support financial aid, legal, and other subsidized services for families having to navigate the courts as I think that is part of the disparity between whites and minorities. Public Defenders are overworked and overwhelmed. I had one on my case and he didn't do a damn thing. More affluent people can afford better lawyers leading to better sentences (or no consequences) and that is completely unfair.

I strongly support, after a youth has experienced the scary process of the legal system, he/she and his/her family having access to programs to help strengthen the home life and community involvement.

Youth have to understand that illegal activities have consequences. As shown in my case the youth committed a felony and was not even visited by anyone in law enforcement. I am sure he continued his illegal activities causing harm to others and was an example for others. If we do not intend to prosecute minors for felonious actions we should word the laws so that they do not apply to minors. Vehicle theft causes damage to legal owners and has been seen in other cases has caused injury to innocent individuals who may be in the stolen vehicle or struck by that vehicle.

Look no further than Asians are UNDERREPRESENTED in the justice system. INCOME, education, family structure are higher than average. Stop trying to blame "the system". Reduce income inequity, keep kids "of color" in school, and make sure that families are headed by a married couple. The average income of a married household in Seattle nears \$150,000. Yep. There is your problem.....

Poor kids commit crimes because they have fewer options. Why would my kids sell weed for a few bucks so they can eat? They are fed, have good phones, xboxes, computers, ipads, cars, bikes, etc... they don't have to steal, defend turf, or need a gun for protection as we live in a good neighborhood.

By the way. I hate that Asians are a race of convenience. They are "of color" when it suits the conversation.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

As part of the prevent strategies, we need to do a better job of identifying and tracking at risk youth to provide them with the available community-based services. So often youth might exhibit smaller behaviors to adults in their community (family, teachers, doctors, social workers) that add up to a larger story that one person alone cannot piece together. Additionally, community resources are not always apparent within their own community, so creating a centralized source of information for services and making it easily accessible to families and youths in need is essential.

I don't understand the term "Zero Youth Detention" and, to the extent that I do understand it, I don't think that I agree with it. This survey is highly biased toward a certain points of view -- among them "Zero Youth Detention." I think that it is undesirable and impossible to eliminate Zero Youth Detention.

In addition to attempting to reduce racism and, perhaps more important, one should push policies increasing the responsibility of parents and potential parents. Responsible parenthood is essential and providing the option of non-parenthood is also essential. Policies should be put in place to better achieve these objectives. Also, the county should provide more opportunities for youth to work off their energy in constructive ways, e.g., increase availability of recreation centers.

I feel that significant anti-social behavior SHOULD result in incarceration independent of whether "youth of color" are disproportionately impacted. Society at large must be protected and this has a higher priority than "Zero Youth Detection."

No New Youth Jail. Get a better mayor and different city council members too. Rob Johnson has gotta go. Durkan has gotta go. Constantine has gotta go. They are all responsible for inequity.

I strongly believe that keeping youth out of detention is best for them and their future. There has to be many other things we can do to help them. Locking them up, I believe, does not help them at all. Thanks for looking out for our youth. My children are now grown and I would never choose for them to go to a juvenile detention center.

Disproportionate racial outcomes are happening because of larger systemic issues. I don't see any of those addressed here.

holding youth accountable

The resources and community providers that will be sufficient. Nice wording but in the end you have to put the human beings in the agency and offices. You can't do this without sufficient resources. You need social workers, mental health professionals, you need judges who are compassionate but hold everyone responsible the youth and parent. Make the parents engage in parenting mental health or treatment. Show engagement and progress. System follow through as well. They not miracle workers. They have two hands not two hands!

Quit wasting my tax money

Recognizing that youth who commit crimes are doing so based on troubles at home, the inability for their environment to meet their needs, etc, we should work to make sure that every family has stable and secure housing, that every youth in school are fed and given positive and stimulating opportunities to direct their creative/brilliant energy, and that we start early in a child's life that these needs are met. Also when we talk about racial equity, we must go beyond hiring in the workforce but identifying and correcting the institutions that communities of color deal with and are being oppressed by everyday—such as housing, education, food, transportation, etc.

Finally, we really should not be building those cages on 12th and Alder if we really want to put our money where our mouth is. It's incredibly disappointing that MLK County and its executive, Dow Constantine, is continuing with the plan to build the youth jail.

Along with all the positive reinforcement and support I believe consequences of bad actions need to be well explained to youth and society as a whole. Most people will take advantage of a system where laws are not enforced.

As wonderful as the above ideas sound, have these things not been in place already? Also, what kind of crimes are we talking about? A starving youth caught shoplifting with a first offense is much different than a youth who murders.

Taking funds that were originally for the new youth detention and applying them to the services proposed would probably yield a higher success rate on all proposed objectives.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I support expansion of the already existing resources for detained youth that they have access to in detention and the addition of further and longer term community engagement with said youth. Youth should receive the fullest possible investment of resources. That said, youth who have committed violent crime or murder do need to be detained for the safety of the community and many people of color I know support that as well. State law mandates having a facility specifically for detained youth so the vocal move to not construct a youth detention facility is completely moot. State law mandates one .

The realization that sometimes incarceration is what is needed to turn youths lives around. The realization that this change will cost additional tax payer dollars.

Social programs (e.g., sports, engaging in the arts, etc.) to help youth be engaged in something other than nefarious practices. Football, soccer, baseball, etc., sports in general, cost money. When given a choice between food and sports, parents will choose to feed their children.

Objective 1: is it more important to have culturally appropriate staff, or staff trained in healthy crisis support as opposed to say, law enforcement? Objective 4: this is a complex objective making it difficult to achieve. Strategy a and b seem covered in Obj 2 and strategy F is a good stretch goal that might be better re-framed as a data-collection/identification strategy in this project for future policy changes--in other words, you might not be able to identify policy changes, but you'll be collecting data that will help define future policy changes.

I have family in law enforcement and they strongly recommend these facilities as otherwise the alternative for youth who are involved in dangerous criminal activity is to have them sent to an adult facility, which is far more damaging than having a youth facility. In an ideal world it would be wonderful to have every one home and happy but that's not reality. This offers more protection for the youth with opportunities for rehabilitation within the age-appropriate facility rather than putting them in a more dangerous environment.

As an Elder, who works with Age-Friendly Seattle, I would strongly suggest exploring Inter-Generational involvement. I suspect many youth don't have the opportunity to interact with grandparents of their own.

When I first read your opening statements, I laughed to myself, "Well, another logical solution would be to arrest more White youth."

These objectives are just pretty words unless adequately funded with QUALITY community-based professionals and resources. Services currently available to south King County residents are extremely limited, difficult to navigate and staffed by inexperienced, unqualified, minimum-wage social service workers.

I can't believe this is a serious goal of our elected officials. Your constituents certainly did not identify this as a pressing priority. Where are you, as a county, taking your marching orders? This is drivel, this is nonsense. Remember that we are all part of nature, we are part of the animal kingdom. All equal, but different. Human tribes possess biological differences, which yield a different group dynamic with different tribal dispositions. Take it up with Mother Nature if you dislike it. I did not invent this shit-show. But I am honest enough to call it how I see it. Certain races are disproportionately represented in detention facilities and prisons because certain races commit crimes disproportionate of their percentage of the population as a whole. Certain races are more aggressive than others, even within their own groups and tribes. Removing the "ultimate penalty" (i.e. detention, locked up somewhere) for crimes is ridiculous... deterrence works. Certain crimes - no matter the age of the offender - should result in incarceration. It is a matter of public safety. And if you fail to deliver on this simple tenant of civilized society, you will be voted out.

I believe that public schools providing free therapy for students would also help deter young people from committing crimes.

Is conflict coaching in use in any of the programs. If not, this might be something to consider.

Decriminalization of certain actions and behaviors that perhaps need more elegant, community based solutions that don't involve the court system at all. This should be step 1 in race-related incarceration especially.

Perhaps an extended period of in-home and in-school mentoring (call it probation if you like) for youth who have a history with troublesome behavior. Kids are not created in a vacuum. There are reasons they act, and often, those can be traced back to either the pressure from or absence of adult activity. Having an outside monitor to provide a healthy backdrop for them for a period of a year or two years can be more effective than incarceration at breaking the cycles that lead them to fall through the cracks in the first

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

place because a mentor who follows them throughout their real life is helping them navigate real world challenges that they will continue to face.

I would also recommend a "lead first, arrest second" model for police when engaging with youth in difficult situations. Police have the obligation to prevent incarceration by working alongside their community members, not in opposition to them. We know that police have the power of discretion in making arrests. I would ask them to use that discretion for good.

As usual, the brain-washing continues. All people are created equal with very similar abilities. The reason for the racial disproportionate numbers is because of what the government did to racial minorities. They rewarded households where there was no father figure with more welfare per child reared. This created a huge population of children from broken families/communities. A larger percentage of those took to a life of crime because of the broken home environment they came from. Now you want those who chose the life of crime to be free to terrorize the populace with little or no consequence. Admit who caused the problem and quit trying to divert attention away from the real issue. Reward a strong family structure rather than reward broken families and irresponsible procreation. The government caused the problem. The government will take us one step closer to chaos with this movement. They are doing a pretty good job in Seattle right now at creating a chaotic dangerous utopia. Wake up, and quit following the path the puppet masters lay for you. The best way to destroy a country is to do it covertly so that nobody realizes what is happening. But people are just starting to realize now in parts of Seattle where the negative outcomes are beginning to show.

The basic building block of every society is the family. Strong, healthy families produce children who are much less likely to become delinquent. This is the fundamental starting point. Youth of color are over-represented in the court system because they are also over represented in the demographic of poor, broken and struggling families. This is an undeniable fact. It may be a politically sensitive fact, but it is absolutely the reason behind the inequities within the legal system. If we don't put the primary focus on supporting healthy family development and parenting skills, most other effort will be wasted.

Two things:

1. You are using the word "youth" incorrectly throughout this survey. It is a \*count noun\*, meaning that you have to add a plural ending when referring to multiple individuals (examples of count nouns: pea, flower, sock). You are using it as though it were a \*group noun\* (examples: corn, vegetation, hosiery) which don't take plural endings.
2. I'd like some reassurance that this program is not about turning a bunch of nasty hoodlums loose on society. People of tender age can do horrible things and we should be protected from the ones that do.

I suppose this plan is well meaning but I think it will be counter productive. I came from a broken family and struggled as a young person, arrested, etc. It all starts with the family and the community, which tells kids what is normal. If kids are raised to think breaking the law is just part of life then that's what they'll do. How do you fix that? I don't know (in my case I became religious, quit drugs and went to community college). But simply not enforcing the law, which is exactly what this plan is no matter what you might think or say, will only create more incentive to break the law. And that will only send more kids down the path of self destruction. Please reconsider this plan.

This same program is what got us the shooter in Florida. He had been part of the program that did not take action or took meaningless action. I am appalled that King County would consider such a foolish policy.

Having youth who commit crimes face up to THEIR responsibility for the pain, suffering, and hardships they caused their own family members, friends, and victims due to their criminal behavior. Blaming society for their crime deflects from owning their behavior. In my case, contact with the criminal justice system was the start of me straightening my life around - made me recognize that my own poor choices led to my doing time in detention. It was my choice to follow my peers, it was my choice to reject them and finish Cleveland High and be the first of my family to graduate from the UW.

Improve relations between POC youth and law enforcement. Through education of police and increased outreach. Build relationships between youth and the police in their neighborhoods.

Deterrents. For every crime there is a punishment; use it.

Have you learned nothing from the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting? First, I notice that the posting for this survey on the Nextdoor feed is from the Public Health Department rather than the Adult and Juvenile Detention Department, betraying the naive

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

notion that criminal behavior is an issue of health rather than character. Second, racial disproportionality in our prison population is a result of family disruption by the welfare system, as destructive behavior is rewarded rather than punished. Third, as is obvious in the school shooting, Nikolas Cruz was known to the school administrators and to authorities in Broward County as a threat to public safety, yet, in the name of "restorative justice," nothing was done. It's about time our public officials recognized that society's rejection of God and His Laws results in a pandemic of lawless behavior. If we taught our children to honor God and shaped their character through godly influence, fewer children would turn to lives of crime and there would be no need to push silly, disproven strategies to achieve societal harmony.

As distasteful as it might be to so-called "enlightened" elites, the old reform school approach was more effective in deterring anti-social behavior. Focus must be on character development. First, the misbehaving child must be made to take responsibility for his actions. Full restitution must be made to any injured or aggrieved party and to society in general. Second, the child must be given a purpose in life, goals to be achieved and a plan to achieve them if he is to resist the temptation to return to criminal behavior. It is unlikely this can be done without reference to spiritual development., and in American society this has meant having a relationship with the God of the Bible through faith in Jesus Christ, who took the punishment for our transgressions and makes it possible for us to live constructive lives through the leading of His Spirit. Third, until the child has developed the habits necessary for a responsible, productive life, he must be surrounded by a supportive community. Ideally, this would be his family; but in today's godless society, where "family" has been redefined to the point of meaninglessness, a highly structured environment like a boot-camp may be best.

Don't build a new youth detention facility that increases capacity to incarcerate youth. Connect with youth, particularly youth of color, at each and every decision point to ensure their voices are heard in the process. Don't assume that King County or Public Health knows best when the community engagement aspect often happens too late in the process or is a "check box" in the process...actually let community lead the effort and decide what is best for them.

identify and accept that some youths may be 'incorrigible' and require secure, appropriate deterrence (incarceration); e.g., 'psychopaths', murderers, etc.

Opponents of the new juvenile facility want no facility. Some convicted offenders must be held in the interest of public safety, and in some cases, their own safety. The new facility is needed and necessary.

Incarceration for violent crimes such as rape and homicide is appropriate when convicted. The ethnicity correlation to conviction doesn't change the legal standard for conviction - nor should it.

I agree with many of the strategies, but I don't believe they will be effective. One strategy I really DO NOT agree with is #6 a. Just because you eliminate the policy does not mean the offensive action did NOT happen. Also #7 objective 3, keeping youth safe at home, you need to keep in mind that some youths at home are an endangerment to their own families, and also may influence younger siblings in a very negative way. Taking a young person out of their home and their environment is not necessarily a bad thing. Getting out your environment to a better place to clear you head can be helpful. Maybe you should change the culture of the Youth Detention Center to a place where it is a positive experience for the youth to be in.

This a great start to engage youth when they have a run-in with the law because we know incarceration is not the solution. A child is always growing and developing and a child can't grow to be a better version of themselves when we fail them by throwing them in jail. A child can only grow when we show them what they did wrong and how they can do better.

You absolutely must not provide any services in your outline at the same location as a detention center. That is traumatizing and inappropriate.

And THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW YOUTH JAIL MUST BE HALTED IMMEDIATELY. Everything in this survey is just a cover for not stopping these massive castle-like cages for children. I live in King County and NONE of our children must ever go inside that monstrosity. Stop construction now, or all these proposals are just pretty words and this survey is a cover, so you can fake civic engagement to support any policy other than refusing to build a giant jail. You've seen the 100s of organizations and the consistent resistance to the jail for years and years. Listen to those community members, not a very elegant little survey.

When you say divert youth from all points I the legal system does that mean no legal involvement at all or minimal involvement if someone is caught doing something illegal or is this in reference to keeping youth out of trouble in general? Where would the checks and balances be if there was minimal to no involvement with the justice system? This needs more clarification.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

someone comes to my house robs me, rapes and/or murdersw my wife or daughter and then they go on to my neighbor and do the same becuase they can't be held.

Funding for the new community services; funding for coordinators of services, schools, and community volunteers; funding for data analysts and improved data collection software (systems used to search, collate, categorize, and organize data).

Preliminary actions that bridge mission statement and implementation plan. Everything listed under strategies is a mission statement, it is not a strategy. How do you plan to fulfill your grand mission statements? What is your strategy? Tell me something that I can agree or disagree will be effective.

Not sure I see a big emphasis on restorative justice circles and practices here. I think they could be helpful at many levels to prevent legal system involvement and to be used in /with the legal system.

When our state and town get out of the drug business maybe something will work. Until then you're just blowing smoke. Of course the state loves the money generated from the sale of Pot, at the sake of our youth and the so called adults who aren't raising them. And then we as citizens suffer from home invasions and house robberies and vandalism. Start with the PARENTS as they are the biggest detriment to our youth.

I believe that a new youth detention center is directly opposed to the objectives and strategies described in this survey. My tax dollars would be better served through less costly renovations to the existing center, and diverting funds into supporting the objectives and strategies around community engagement. I intend to vote accordingly.

Everyone bleeds red no matter how old they are. Small crimes by youth (without adequate stern consequence) will reinforce the idea to repeat and increase the crimes. Theft, drugs, animal abuse, rape, murder are all the Major signs of a serial killer. Treatment of youth must be more stern as it was before the massacres and school shootings. All this "slap on the wrist, or just don't do it again" stuff is not working and the youth are in more need of correctetion then ever but with all these policies in place they are receiving protection instead of adequate prevention. As my daughter said "they don't enforce the rules at school and the kids just do whatever they want, the adults are to afraid (consequence to them and employment) to correct them" also "Isaac the drug lord at our school has been expelled three times, but somehow his parents got him back in school". Tahoma middle school.

Other daughter was harassed, hit, threatened on a daily basis from a large boy in her class to the point he said (2nd grade) "I'm going to rape you". When he thee rocks at her at recess the recess teacher watched while her friends stepped in to protect her after she repeatedly asked him to stop. This was never informed to me except by her, and the classmates had to act as witness. This was addressed daily by me and went all the way to the superintendent and cops who said "if it happened on school grounds we aren't allowed to do anything"

That's ridiculous kids scared is class being abused daily and they won't suspend or even switch classes for fear of back lash.

This county need to support the teachers adults supervisors and policies to issue stern consequences.

Teens between ages 13-18 should know the difference between right and wrong, and should be able to understand the consequences of committing a crime, and should be punished for crimes they commit. If they don't understand the difference between right and wrong, blame first the Parents, so how about educating them along with teens? I'd focus on educating parents though newsletters (requiring their signature) and emails connected to public schools, as much as you can without having to add to the budget. Educate further as many workers as you can that are already in place to connect with kids and teens. Require parental and teen education as part of sentence. Kids know what is right and wrong and think they can get away with it. Eliminating them from consequences such as keeping them out of the "legal system" shows them that even with the law they can get away with a crime. KIDS ALREADY KNOW that they can in many cases get a free pass from many crimes committed until they are 18. They are already working the system. Crimes will not stop if you keep them out of the system- isn't that the goal?

More recognition of family systems, support to families of troubled youth which may be primary stressors

We honestly need to find a way for youth 14 and up to be able to work more. If we do not instill a solid work ethic that will only lead to the wrong paths being chosen. Even if it is just a few hours a day a few days a week.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

No private prison contracts. Incarceration should never involve profit, and should be run directly by the government to ensure the most humane treatment with a focus on reform rather than punishment.

It is not about race, but behavior that cause the person to be in the system. Too much is being blamed on racism. White youth are not less likely to be arrested as indicated in #1. Behavior, behavior, behavior.

I want longer prison time and I want anyone who has committed a crime, regardless of age, to be made to do very hard productive labor for no pay while in prison. They should also be made to pay for their prison room and board. I want someone to stand up for law and order. Most politicians and administrators are too spineless to do this.

Two family parents which you have no control over. No parental control which you have no control over. If they do the crimes they HAVE to be locked up. But the punishment has to fit the crime. Having no juvenile facilities is absolutely ridiculous.

Clear definitions of terms. What is racial equity? Does that imply Asian kids are detained just as often as white kids? Or that detention is prescribed for like offenses?

In Minnesota we've seen that an equality of outcome approach can have disastrous results. A restorative justice approach led to more violence, not less.

Specific plans for accomplishing the essentially meaningless platitudes!

Some indication of how to fund the goals and objectives!

Hasn't this theory already been trialed in the Obama's administration "Rethink Discipline" in 2014 for schools? What do the metrics say about that outcome? Have the schools become a better place, is public education thriving, or are instances of bullying declining. This should be a good measure of no discipline outcomes.

Almost all of these strategies require community services and support and/or extremely early childhood intervention, not only with youth but with the entire family and communities of at risk youth, and the County has no good plan, or financial support to do any of that. Zero youth detention is a nice idea, but one that will require millions of dollars of funding and 20 years to implement.

Take the over 200 million dollars you're investing in building a new detention center and use them to advance the strategies in this survey. Build a community center instead of a jail.

Training. What happens to staff who have operated in the system for their entire careers or long enough to have internalized the old ways of the system?

Society needs to be protected from dangerous/violent criminals. It is naive to think that the City can protect the public with zero youth detention.

Educating parents and providing free/affordable safe locations to bring their children when they are not available to care for them such as after school and during school breaks. Adding additional school activities and resources to children and parents is also imperative. Ask youth what would keep them more involved with community and ask imprisoned youth what would keep them off the streets and/or from participating in criminal behavior.

While I believe these strategies and goals are admirable, I think making them a reality will be very difficult. This is not only about the youth, but the environment the youth goes home to every night. Single drug addicted parents, lack of nutrition, guns in the home. By taking on the support services for the youth you might have to take on support services for the adults in the home. Where will the money come from ?

Parental responsibility and involvement setting youth boundaries.

While I think the language used and the guidelines/goals for all of this is admirable-- it's difficult to support/agree with all the statements because there is no concrete language about how/who will be implementing this. This is a problem that needs to be addressed by community organizations, law enforcement, social workers, schools, et al. to be done properly-- and who coordinates between all these agencies? Who holds one or the other accountable? Who provides the resources and who tracks all of this?

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

This survey is politically motivated and promotes less involvement and responsibility for the behavior of youth away from the family where it belongs and burden the government and the taxpayers with the misbehavior of minority youth.

Youth led strategies. Acknowledgement that youth detention is largely an adult driven problem. If adults don't think about youth, youth if color differently, nothing will change.

Protecting the community from criminals regardless of race.

Incarcerate, protect, punish.

Violate the community, you need to be punished.

I am appalled at the blatant racism of King County and Dow Constantine trying to classify people by skin color. If a youth, any youth, regardless of skin color, commits a crime, they should be handled by the criminal justice system. This has nothing to do with skin color, period. Inserting skin color into the equation IS racism. Stop it.

make police enforce the laws and make the courts support the police.

Accessible mental health evaluation and care. Adhd, and co occurring disorders are often a factor and not addressed. This is really important.

1) After School Programs: Keep youth out of trouble by investing more into after school programs like the YMCA or other activities that will keep the youth engaged and out of the streets. Providing free transportation to and from these after school programs/activities so the barriers to entry are minimal.

2) Engage kids (and parents) on the ground in troublesome neighborhoods: In some neighborhoods/environments, youth have nothing but trouble to get into, so target those more troublesome neighborhoods and attempt to engage the youth there as well (an on the ground approach).

3) Invest in Teachers/Education: Pay teachers better and hire more teachers so the student to teachers ratio is lowered across the board (elementary/middle/high school). This will give teachers more one-on-one time with students and create more opportunities that allow teachers to make a positive impact on a personal level with students.

Emphasis on substance use treatment and harm reduction education when relevant.

Am I missing something? The legal system should not be focused on race and should enforce the laws equally to all individuals. That issue aside, I do think it's good to support youth in ways that keep them out of trouble. Better parental involvement is necessary, mentors, job opportunities... but if a youth gets into trouble this plan sounds like they will not be punished for their actions especially if they are a minority. I don't see this as a positive step to deter crime but one that will encourage it to continue. Youth that have been in trouble should be appropriately punished (with detention if warranted) AND they should have support to encourage them on a different path once they have served their sentence.

I'm concerned that the family isn't always the best place to go back to. The kids didn't get to be the way they are in a vacuum. Children who have children, generally speaking, don't know what they're doing. In an ideal world, children in middle school and again in high school should be REQUIRED to take child development and parenting classes. And the very first thing that they should be taught is that children will make their life MISERABLE. The child will NOT give them the adoring love that teens so long for. I adore the foster children that have been given to us, but believe me, raising them is not fun and games.

I think that what you've come up with is an excellent plan, but you will never get tax payers to pay for all these services. We talk big about how important our children are, and then vote down money to pay for our children's needs. We refuse to fund schools to the degree they need to be funded to provide a good education to failing kids, but approve of paying sports stars millions of dollars for contributing nothing to society but a little entertainment. We need to change how we ALLOCATE how our tax dollars are spent.

I hope you go all the way with this!!! I will do everything I can to support you in your efforts, including paying taxes. GOOD LUCK TO YOU!!!!

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Enough information and specific steps on how these strategies would be implemented. This is way too vague to appropriately respond.

Education fir individuals not necessarily impacted by the criminal justice system who may not understand the impacts and be unfavorable to the costs associated with the objectives.

Discipline, teaching respect for the law and family, institute broken window policies.

- Change the criteria on which people who commit a crime are judged fairly on their unique circumstances and not the crime they have committed.

- Employ and provide opportunities for youth who were once in these circumstances to help other youth who are currently in a similar situation.

Police accountability in use of force situations

Economic inequality drives a good deal of the context which occasions criminal behavior. I hope that the County will consider adjusting its spending priorities to focus more on economic inequality. Spending 180 million on Safeco field is a great example of not doing that. Perhaps County government could lobby for a state income tax, so that more funds would be available for human services. Great goals, as those above, are a start, but inadequate financial resources limit their ability to be carried out.

all good goals, but how would this get implemented? I know people don't want to see kids incarcerated, but what do you do with youth that have committed serious crimes?

At a certain point it's important to admit certain youths into intensive treatment facilities and services. If youth are given diversion program after diversion program after diversion program then at a certain point these youth are often older and sent to older "corrections" facilities (a.k.a Green Hill School) and we've missed many crucial opportunities for intensive rehabilitation (Echo Glen Children's Center - certain units such as Copalis, Nisqually, and Yakima cottages specifically). I agree that less detention and diversion programs should come first, however, King county shouldn't instill a strong zero youth detention mentality as this can also lead to problems (hold off too long to place youth in facilities and as mentioned above it may become too late for rehabilitation). Let's focus on LESS YOUTH DETENTION and as mentioned earlier address and solve the racial disproportionality in the juvenile Justice system by education, continued training, and actual conversations with/amongst law enforcement. Again, I understand this survey is about detention, however, institutions and rehabilitation are connected.

Your survey does not explain the types of "incidences" these youth are involved in. Youth need to be accountable for their actions. If incarcerated they should be counseled and given job training so they become productive citizens.

No New Youth Jail. Stop profiting out of incarcerated people. No ICE. Truly be a sanctuary city.

Most youth that are affected have minimal or non existent family support. Family units have broken down due to other sometimes well intentioned laws and regulations.

Everything discussed here increases the scope and involvement of government. The problem must first start with a strong family unit and acknowledgement of misconceptions that government can fix these problems. Government is the problem not the solution! How about facing the facts that throwing more money at problems is never the answer. More money is spent yet problems get larger. More money is spent on education yet the level of education is always decreasing. The school districts that spend the most per student have the lowest performing students because those districts have the lowest levels of whole family units and parental involvement in the lives of the children. It is more common to have single parent households than dual parent households. It is common in these communities to look to the government to solve these problems instead of taking responsibility and accountability on their own.

This is all great AND it will take a group of Human Resources folks who are willing to dig deep to make this happen. The objectives are so specific and the strategies to implement them are daunting.

If you are not going to incarcerate them, what do you propose for punishment? Or how will you change their behavior? This is just typical governmental mumbo-jumbo.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

In-school therapy options, for kids who can't get support at home, for whatever reason.

In our society, it is not that young POC are acting out more or in worse ways than white youth, but the strong systematic bias against them. Cops are more likely to arrest a kid of color than a white kid even if they are caught next to each other doing the same thing, it was and remains a fear in my life, it's systematic. So despite finding these objectives worthy, I find myself questioning how well they will work when the society is already against us.

Invest in education, retrain police forces, reduce income disparity for low income family's so that they aren't in poverty and more likely to get into trouble

The police system and individual officers require checks and balances to ensure disproportionate arrests and detentions cease. These objectives require safeguards to ensure meaningful change is effected.

Concrete specifics. The explanations of what you plan to do are too abstract. Also the questions are leading. The way the questions are asked people are most certainly going to agree. Of course, putting resources towards helping troubled youth is going to cut down on youth getting in trouble with the law and subsequently arrested. The question is, what exactly do you plan on doing? Resources is vague. Counseling is vague. Help is vague. And how do you plan to pay for these resources?

Reduce mandatory minimums, stop sentencing youth as adults, decriminalize drug use

No new youth detention center

A basic understanding of the difference between typical white culture and typical black culture (and the ability to make decisions based on that), being able to make connections with those who seem at risk, and including MORE WOMEN/WOMEN OF COLOR IN INVOLVEMENT

Eliminate any form of profit-gain resulting from incarceration of youth (e.g. in the form of for-profit prisons, quota for police, etc)

These are lofty goals, but king county has drastically reduced the number of individuals in juvenile detention. The county also needs to remember the impact on victims and the risk to community safety. It does a great disservice to juveniles to release them or not detain them and then they have a criminal history that lands them with serious adult prison time if they commit the same crimes as an 18 or 19 year old.

Resources to accomplish these objectives and faith that, should they fail with some individuals, other more stringent measures will apply.

Let's have less touchy-feely programs and more police please!!!!

Increased accountability of police force to build community trust. No new youth jail.

A 16 year old just drank alcohol. Took dad's truck. Shiit a gun a police officer died.

Tuba Man was murdered by teens given second chance abused black teen ladies

This program is ridiculously ignorant to the issue with juvenile crime. The overwhelming majority of the justice system is fair. You can't honestly believe that the need to securely detain juveniles is "rarely" needed when we just buried an officer in a Kent who was killed pursuing a car full of juveniles fleeing after allegedly just participating in a shooting. Time and time again we see violent crime being committed by juveniles and nothing is done about it. It is common knowledge that older members in gangs are actively using juveniles to commit violent crimes and shootings, knowing that King County does not actively prosecute or do anything to curb juvenile crime. Mr. Constaine is blatantly blind to causation of crime, it is not the justice system, it is not the government, it is the people and their actions. You can't tell the public that it is the government picking on youth, when the same youth are participating and listening to songs and other art encouraging violence. Numerous violent crimes, including murders have been committed by juveniles, including the homicide in kent from a few years ago where an infant was killed in a drive by. Clearly King County has to recognize that treating juvenile offenders with soft gloves is not working and is leading to further victimization of the public.

Don't build a jail if you are trying for zero youth detentions. Seems against the point.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Also, building in and investing in economic and social capital strategies for young people is always a good way to keep out of juvenile justice system.

That King County youth detention was designed for non-sentenced youth, awaiting a fair hearing seeking "justice". Youth deserve to be held, (not punished) in detention while the outcome of each individual is fairly processed in due time. Diversion is always an option.

We live in a good time and most people appreciate following Law and Order, NOT RACE. So punish those who should be punished, appreciate those who should be appreciated, again those people are irrelevant with RACE.

Accountability for behaviors

Eliminating carceral law enforcement that have record or unrecorded record of detaining/abusing/killing youth based on racial profiling. Allow the community to protect and get justice for their youth as much as law enforcement want to protect and get justice for other law enforcement.

Specific language

Need youth programs (i.e. sports, arts, music, drop-in centers) with role models for kids. Lots of parents work overtime to provide, very few families have a stay-at-home parent (in the ghetto). You can't let the responsibility of fixing our juvenile justice system fall on community members who can barely afford to make ends meet anymore. Bad parenting is also a huge factor in juvenile rebellion. Fund programs for paid, full-time employees to work with the kids so they have a neutral person they can vent to and look out for them. Encourage the kids to volunteer which will help them get their first job or get into college, and build rapport with the community.

No youth detention whatsoever.

No. 6 above asserts that incarceration is ineffective. For all youth? Where is the data for this?

The details. How are you going to get community involvement with youth early during development to identify when their mental, emotional, and physical needs might not be met and work to remedy? We need to work on every youth being raised in a safe loving home, with parents that are not required to work more than 40 hours so they have time and energy to be more involved. They need to have access (regardless of income) to healthy foods, mental health counseling (around 50% of incarcerated people identify as having mental health conditions), proper vision screenings (so kids can succeed in school with 80% or more of info being taken in visually and lack of evidence leading to kids acting out), and work to eliminate physical and especially sexual assault (sexual assault victims are twice as likely to end up in prison).

When we do well by our youth in critical developmental years, they will be much less likely to get in situations that will lead to legal involvement and incarceration.

Connections with school, the foster system to find youth from unsafe homes a safer place to live, connections with mentoring programs

Even with optimal parenting at home, some youth are encouraged to violent lifestyles by having no discipline in schools and no respect for authority. Giving cultural awareness/ racial training, is not going to change that. Zero detention can easily be accomplished by just not enforcing the laws in our schools, like in Florida. The result is increased drug abuse, increased violence against teachers, bullying / intimidation, and rape. And a further decline in the educational environment. What is seriously flawed plan. Planners for this idea should all sit down for a movie night and watch *To Sir with Love*. They can bring their safety blankets if they think it might be too hard.

Expand partnerships between the detention center and local schools, community colleges, and universities.

My work is law-enforcement adjacent. We absolutely need to work with kids that are first-time offenders, help them find other paths, or community service. This is a much better option than detention. But you also have to face reality. Some parents are fed up with their kids. We get hundreds of 911 calls every day in this county because parents can't handle their children and want them taken away. We also have some teens that are super intelligent, using their smarts to commit crimes and bring their friends into that

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

lifestyle. Those children need some kind of remedy, and most often, less-harsh options don't sway them. Maybe 60-70% of juvenile offenders can be rehabilitated through social programs, but the other 30-40% will need a swift plan of action, that usually includes detention.

REALITY. Who could disagree that we would love all these things for our youth?

These are lovely, amorphous goals. I don't see ANY plan. You can say the words "expand, renegade, ensure, align, utilize and support" ...and they are beautiful verbs. You can call it a strategy. But it's all just fluff.

You can balance the racial inequalities by arresting more youth-of-no-color and calling that equal. You can arrest no one at all, and call that equal. You can make yourselves look "good" and get great press....but the ordinary people getting mugged or robbed or shot at or terrorized will not be fooled. Of course we do not want innocent youths targeted, but when a "youth" is willing to kill, rob, injure, drive loaded, shoot at people, houses and animals...and your only response to provide that "youth" with "understanding and support" while leaving them free to commit more crime, You dismiss and disrespect the real victims. It leaves us, and our innocent children, endangered...and THAT encourages ordinary people to buy guns and take other measures to protect their homes and families. That is not good for our society. Open your eyes and SHOW concern for ALL of the citizens.

Give equal attention to safety of community when setting up diversion and restorative options, especially in schools.

Ways to provide youth and families with the skills needed to negotiate difficult situations - so that they are able to internalize strong decision making and accept accountability for their decisions.

I am being selfish here but I think any of these programs would have prevented my sister from becoming what she did (currently a homeless alcoholic). As a child, I was thrilled to get her out of our house because she was so disruptive to the entire family. I believe some kids are he'll bent on destruction and there is little we can do to divert them.

As someone who has worked in programs implementing these non-incarceration objectives with youth and adults in Massachusetts 20 years ago, I feel this is an attempt by county leaders and employees to "go it alone, instead of using many tried and well informed practices from other states and programs who've been effective at this. There is little mention of the need for treatment and what seems to be a rosier-than-reality view of the community and family systems in place and their ability to handle out of control young people. You make mention of "community" and "resources" as if they are some sort of magic forces that will, alone, be able to take in wayward youth and produce the desired change. There needs to be a more informed (e.g., best practices, evidence based) outline that makes use of years of experience gained through study and policy development (through networking and research—e.g., Massachusetts and CT reformers) and hands on program work (RFK Children's Action Corps) BEFORE writing a plan from ground up. This plan seems to lack that sort of ethically thought through and practically researched prep.

Don't jail youth.

I'm not seeing anything regarding working to ensure youth have access to safe and stable housing both prior to and following interfacing with the legal system. As someone who has done transitional support work for youth exiting the justice system- housing can be both contributing factor to and a barrier for exiting secure detention processes. I'm also curious about the types of community services that will be the focus of capacity building as part of prevention for youth and families.

Recognize criminal behavior for what it is and save this lost generation from the continual downward spiral of no accountability, no consequences, self absorption, and the idea that drugs are alright...they are not, at any stage. They require a moral compass and need to learn what virtue, honesty, righteousness and responsibility are through qualified, caring and strongly capable mentors. They don't need more coddling and social justice reforming...they need to be guided in truth, not the whims of adults who are still behaving like teenagers themselves and doing everything possible to make sure society continues in immaturity. Enough is enough...time for everyone to grow up!

Alternatives for kids who fall through the cracks - not jail, but training, arts programs, athletic programs, that are led by members of the community and funded by the state. Also, ample funding for public schools so that students' needs can be met in the places where they are spending so much of their time.

Faith-based institutions in the community-support structures

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Expand non-traditional educational options. We know that people learn in different ways but we don't provide enough alternatives to our one-size-fits-all education system and that tends to alienate youth who struggle in that environment. These disenfranchised youth now end up in the legal system when they could be routed into an alternative learning environment.

Yes I agree locking up youth is not great, but since parents are NOT teaching their kids right from wrong and the youth are committing crime they need to be taught "you do the crime, you do the time", I don't care what race you are. IF you commit a crime you must be taught that there are consequences for your actions. If my kid did a crime I would expect he would spend time in youth detention.

All of these options are not sufficient to work toward Zero Youth Detention. I found this survey confusing, and I suspect it's results will be misleading.

Stop construction on the new Children and Family Justice Center. This will massively increase youth detention. If we build it, it will be filled. Force the judges and prosecutors to focus on real solution, not more youth detention.

Money to support these systems; a sense of "fairness" (for lack of a better word) in terms of who is paying for these proposed systems

This is perfectly word-smithed but sooooo general. It sounds like a campaign speech. I'm sorry, but that's real. What is missing....Religion is missing, a two parent household is missing, a sense of belonging and being loved and cared for is missing. There is no need to turn to drugs and violence when something more appealing exists. Youth groups do this, Jubilee REACH does this, site coaches do this. Please contact Randy Eng at Jubilee REACH in Bellevue to investigate their middle school and high school site coach model. Also check out Eastside Academy in Bellevue. The statistics are available and will blow your mind. Grades improve, a sense of belonging improves, drugs and violence decreases and the likelihood that kids go to college/trade school increases dramatically.

Jail the assholes

Mentorship programs might be helpful as well. Sometimes youth would like nothing more than someone who believes in them and holds them to a higher standard.

What's missing is plain English...kitchen table PlainSpeak about what's wrong and how we might at least partially fix it. If you were to address school-age youth with this abstract "language," they'd diss you. Someone needs to speak to kids and families and teachers and cops in simple, straight-forward language. The proposals reek of Legalese.

This new view should not simply be a matter of "non-prosecution" for criminal or misdemeanor offenses. Situations are different depending on the family dynamic.

Many youths belong to families that do not promote a positive attitude towards becoming a useful citizen and eventual taxpayer.

One size-fits all approaches are counterproductive.

Removal or involvement of the legal system should not swing to either extreme but should be used as an incentive towards turning youth into law abiding future taxpayers with a future.

Harsh sentences should be imposed for people with repeat offenses, but methods to allow for future employment should not be precluded.

Currently we permanently exclude people with certain offenses from ever improving themselves.

I suggest after a 10 year parole period, perhaps 20, records should be expunged, truly allowing a fresh start.

Perhaps a new category of offender status should be offered in the future: "record sealed" (so that a prior offender can legally say on job application paperwork that they truly do not have a "non-sealed" criminal record), (but if there is ever a re-offense, they have a third-strike and are never allowed to claim this status again)

This is all well and good for many, but the reason many youth are offenders in the first place is due to lack of family support and engagement. I don't believe this policy would impact any of that if the offender has an unstable or unhealthy home.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I don't see addressing drug addiction nor mental health in these objectives. Oftentimes these are either a precursor to juveniles committing crimes and/or sends them back to jail once they have gotten out because they are not getting the services they need to address these issues. These have to be longer term solutions.

What is missing? Common sense. Discipline. Family values. Government impartiality.

To me, this sounds much like what I must assume the beginnings were like for the program that kept the MSD-Parkland shooter "out of the system." I am not in favor of creating loopholes for any person to evade consequences when they break the law. We have seen over and over again, very recently, that these programs are not used to serve or protect the general populous. They ease the system for people that abuse it. I have no problem with a stepped series of consequences, which increase with recidivism and/or severity of crimes. However, I firmly believe that establishment of a history for a youth is important if they are consistently running afoul of the law. We already expunge or seal records at age 18 for minor infractions and even some more serious crimes. That is enough leniency and that's why we've done that for decades. While this seems to target mostly minority youth, certainly it would be applied to all youth in King County. Erasing such history before it can even be captured does not serve the best interests of the law-abiding public that deserves the best protection King County can provide. None of this seems to further that end.

No child should be born unwanted, unplanned, or into a situation not suited to raising children to be healthy, happy whole adults. This involves really tough solutions. As it is obvious to me that across the world, children are the most abused demographic, the license to have a child should be the most highly regulated set of laws on the planet. As of now, humankind is not evolved enough to understand this reality. Sad for all of us.

Stop building a new youth jail if you're invested in keeping youth out of jail. Use those funds for community support programs instead.

There is minimal discussion that we need less police. Potentially replaced with other service workers that actually help.

How will you let the communities lead on many of these issues?

Don't ignore criminals because they are minorities like Florida school and police did with the Parkland shooter. Treat everyone equally the same no matter their race/ancestry! Blacks are incarcerated more because they commit more crime! It's not racism!

There must be a backup option for those youth whose families are not an option due to family differences or no parent available. I feel this is a gap in the above plan.

Although youth at risk, many face negative family situations, there are also youth that defy the norm by having conventional, healthy home lives and still offend.

There seems to be a ton of services now, but youth offenders think the legal system is a joke. I cannot see how removing detention as an option could help youth at risk and their choices/actions.

How about some concrete suggestions for reducing youth from entering a life of crime in the first place? Most of these strategies are pure fluff and start from the premise that certain youth are destined to engage in crime. Why is that and how shall we change it?

It all sounds really great on paper.

I worked at juvenile detention years ago. Unfortunately these kids range greatly in their mental health, crimes etc. They come from broken families etc. What is your plan for the kids that murder, rape and come from long history's of family violence.

Programs never seem to have enough help, funds, etc.

There would be no room for mistake and we all know that never happens.

We have many private sector community organizations and programs that can already address the need. We don't need government involved in promoting actions to reduce their responsibility that they routinely neglect already. This proposal is insane and irresponsible. Florida has already tried this with deadly consequences.

## Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

It's important to let kids learn there are consequences for their action. It's for the safety of law abiding, tax paying community members that kids locked up when they commit crime

Lock up the THUGS!

individual's responsibilities; educate to be Literate

Making sure our youth and families have housing and are part of a community.

More emphasis on education

We also need to expand this to adult detention and incarceration. The US has the highest prison population in the world. We need to change this in our lifetime to end incarceration and the for profit prison industrial complex.

Parent education/involvement seems a bit thin. And how do you deal with parents that say they don't want a kid back in their home for whatever reason (kid's gay/done a crime)?

You absolutely must not provide any services in your outline at the same location as a detention center. That is traumatizing and inappropriate.

And THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW YOUTH JAIL MUST BE HALTED IMMEDIATELY. Everything in this survey is just a cover for not stopping these massive castle-like cages for children. I live in King County and NONE of our children must ever go inside that monstrosity. Stop construction now, or all these proposals are just pretty words and this survey is a cover, so you can fake civic engagement to support any policy other than refusing to build a giant jail. You've seen the 100s of organizations and the consistent resistance to the jail for years and years. Listen to those community members, not a very elegant little survey.

Government interference has the effect of violently taking responsibility away from the family - and specifically the father - for the action (misdeeds) of its members. This results in weakening the lynchpin of society.

Whats often the problem is either absent or abusive parent in the home. Sadly, this is challenging to remedy.

Y'all are missing the point. These kids need better parenting and laws to keep them safe, curfew laws. Parents need to be held accountable for their minors. Sure we can try to keep kids out of the system, but take a look at what is getting them in, negligent parenting and lack of consequences for minors committing crimes.

Given have been these strategies, which sounds great. But is there data that shows the results of their implementation? Where do these ideas comes from? Where will the funding for these programs come from?

If you do a crime and there is no punishment. Why would a criminal change their way?

I think all of this sounds great. Implementation/execution of these strategies is the hard part. My questions would be how do you intend to do this? With what resources?

You're not respecting individual innocent victims or community rights to safety with these plans and outlines.

Holding parents responsible and if these "Youth" commit an adult crime they automatically charged as adults. It's pathetic to sit back and watch as kids are coddled,

Racial profiling has not been addressed. BLM

Statement of commitment by Seattle and King County law enforcement to intentionally and actively choose action and \*not acting\* that indicate genuine understanding and earnest effort toward fixing this horrendous blight in our society. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Be PEACE OFFICERS.

Making sure the community is represented in the staff and services. Youth will not trust the process other wise.

Enough of this hug-a-thug crap. This victimhood nonsense, where criminals are allowed to get away with assaulting and robbing decent, law abiding citizens. Lock the little miscreants up if they commit a crime for ffs

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Detain dangerous youths keep them away from the rest of our children.

You've generalized too much. Some youth offenses lend themselves to alternative sentencing, while serious and repetitive offenses demand a stronger response.

I do not believe that supporting mothers who don't show interest in their own children and giving them everything is the answer. I don't choose the baby daddy that ran away. Why am I responsible? This whole idea of strong community? City powers have destroyed, communities, family's! Tents and drug use is what king county promotes. Now you want to take out jails? Time for new leadership!

There may be another objective worth discussing: a path to a better future. Often times, there is a sense of hopelessness when kids see their parents financially struggling. As a society, what can we tell these kids about their future that will make them seek a better path?

Sincere willingness to receive divers opinions. Why are all these questions bias and leading. We will be kicking out 7 city council members next year. You will be next. We want our city back. We deserve peace and security. We deserve to have the law applied to all.

Enforce the law equally for everyone.

Equality - this is the most racist program I've ever seen in modern America

There is no concept of number of offenses. My response for the first encounter with the judicial system is different from the fifth which is different from the tenth.

No one wants the state to replace the role of the family and the community in raising a generation of moral youth, but it cannot absolve youth from the consequences of their actions. That makes us all less secure.

1. No mention of the role of the church helping families provide a strong moral foundation for their children.
2. No mention that schools replace truth with political correctness, encourage relativism, encourage amoral behavior and purposefully destroy the identities and individuality of our children, resulting in youth that are confused, anxious and adrift.

The KC juvenile justice system isn't racist. Ideally, jail is a deterrent as much as it can be a place to receive resources to change. There is a need for juveniles who commit violent crimes or multiple offenses to be detained in a facility meeting their needs but also to stop the dangerous behaviors they engage in.

Any minor who commits a crime needs to feel some consequences. If there is no punishment, what are we teaching them?

The mental health care system is broken. We are throwing money at it and not fixing the problem. No 13 year old should be in control of their medical decisions.

Constantine is a deluded clown. Will he guarantee Zero youth serious crime with this policy? We already have youth and homeless addicts preting on citizens and their property with absolutely no consequences. No thanks to more of the same!

I believe the plan has merit, but my experience prevents me from believing it would be possible. Our son ended up spending 13 years of his life as a quadriplegic as a result of an accident in a stolen vehicle, attempting to elude the police. He was 29 at the time and died at 42 in 2008. We re-established family ties and supported him through his final years. None of our family, including our son, have yet been able to figure out why he chose his self destructive life style. I believe we, as a society, must still try and this effort is a start. I do not believe we can just eliminate juvenile detention because I know that time provides for rejuvenation for families dealing with a "problem child". Our family was (and is) a loving Christian family. We and our son had support from extended family, church and many friends in the community and still could not solve our problem.

For objective 4, I don't see a stated role for community involvement. It seems like it would be valuable for the county to have partnerships/relationships with the community to provide some continuity of contact with the youth being restored to their community. Maybe it's already assumed that objective 4 (Effective) loops back to objective 2 (Prevent).

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I see nothing that mentions any real accountability for bad behavior. It used to be, "If you can't do the time, don't do the crime." Now it sounds like "Do the crime and get plenty of care and services because you are actually the victim."

I do not see the price tag for the technical digital alignment of legal, health, human services, schools and law enforcement. This alignment alone sounds like many millions of dollars. (I'm in IT.)

The reality of having a continually disruptive child in a classroom is that the rest of the classroom is held back due to the extra time needed to deal with disruptions. This is why you need to make \$250,000 a year to live where good schools are.

How do you expand family engagement when there is only half a family or no family. Is a gang considered a family in some cultures? Are we going to promote the well-being of gangs and expand gang engagements and gang connections? Gangs are the only family some of these youth know.

What's missing is a solid foundation built on real family, God, morals, discipline, responsibilities, expectations of youth, and accountability when the expectations are not met. The foundation I see here is easily washed away, once you take out the extreme ideology and terms like, "well-being, racial equity, the right to be well, culturally reflective, cultural responsiveness, strong communities, help youth and their families, restorative policies, keep youth engaged in school, high quality, community led services, community based responses, families in crisis, everyone gains, community based responses, strength based solutions, safely keep youth, meet the needs of youth, enhanced community safety, youth can thrive, expand family engagement, reengage youth, trauma informed, culturally reflective, and developmentally appropriate care and services.

There are many communities that are not strong. Will the county support a strong communities choice to put youth in stocks with their crimes above their heads if this is the community based response? How about hard labor? Will you really support a strong community or will you force us to treat the criminals as victims? I grew up in a strong community where the youth didn't have the time or energy to commit a crime because we were working the fields all day.

I am also a Six Sigma Black Belt and this would be a great Six Sigma project. You have plenty of data and a goal. The first step is to have a problem statement and declare the opportunities, then collect data, then analyze, then find the solution. What is happening here is that you are stating the problem and a hopeful solution without doing the work needed to have real fact based decision making. (Using facts and math.) What often happens is that the real solution is way different from what you thought or hoped.

My mother worked in a detention center and took me on a personal tour as a child. That was a place I didn't want to go. Perhaps we should keep the detention centers and just have schools do class field-trips there.

I'm all for alternative programs dictated by the court. A youth would have a choice to divert to a religion, mentor, and work based program that they must be evaluated on and pass. If they don't engage and pass they go to detention. If the program itself doesn't prove helpful, it is ended. This way you can beta test many programs and end the ones that don't work and expand a program that does.

Prevent crime by addressing the core sources. Guarantee every person has a home, nutritious meals, and other basic needs met with minimal barriers to access that assistance (a UBI and housing first policy would be ideal); decriminalize drug use and treat it as the public health issue it is; and fund lead abatement, as exposure to lead is strongly correlated with impulsivity, brain damage, and crime.

Parents need to be held accountable, instead of jumping to the defense of their troubled kids.

The goal of zero youth detention is laudable, and King County should strive to reach it. However, when the need does arise, it is important for the county to have an appropriate facility for the emergent, temporary detention of persons alleged to have committed violent crime.

didn't see anything

Criminals are criminals, period, and thus they have earned the right to be treated as such.

Protect victims while improvements are progressing (especially with young people who do not yet have the skills to not fall back on victimizing behaviors).

---

Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public

---

How is family to pay for legal expense and court cost and more? How long is the legal involvement on youth record and how do these objectives resolve this?

Will family be involved in this process without burdensome costs?

Reducing the budget allocation for youth detention and reinvesting it in youth development in communities of color.

I believe paying for help for our youth upfront will be cheaper in the long term. Do you have any information to substantiate this hypothesis on my part? As a . retired person, I am all for this help. However, our property taxes went up almost 20% this past year; we will not be able to afford year over year increased spending. How do we pay for this necessary help and yet cut somewhere else? Businesses have to come up with return on investment propositions and -ways to self-fund. Our government needs to do this also.

Father's raising their multiple momma baby children.

I really don't know. I'm hoping you're able to reach out to the communities most impacted by racial injustice and youth detention. I hope these strategies are implemented and work well. Thank you for asking!

I agree that strong families are imperative in helping to keep kids straight. And community programs can be big helps also. But not involving the police when kids are doing dangerous things does NOT help keep either themselves or others safe. Whatever happened to the Scared Straight programs? And if a kid is found with a weapon, they need to have consequences. Otherwise they just continue on their bad track.

The first objective on racial equity is misguided. Race should not be a factor in prescribing any type of consequences for youth involved in a crime. If one race happens to commit crimes at a higher rate than another race, then they should be disciplined at a higher rate. Race should not play a part in doling out consequences. This could result in a lifetime of inappropriate behavior.

Hire POC throughout the whole process—make sure equity-trained workers (preferably POC who have been touched by the legal system before) are directly working with staff and have administrative power in the process.

Realistic consideration of how profoundly neutral and comfortable majority culture has become when the issue of racial equality and justice arises in any context.

I have seen the success of the Creative Justice program and strongly believe that arts-based strategies give young people a way to express themselves and feel valued by their peers and society. Art functions differently, which for kids who struggle to fit into the standard sports / academic paradigm can be a lifesaver. I strongly support the inclusion of strategies that are expressly cultural in nature.

Education of people in all racial groups and public and private organizations about the impacts and costs of youth detention and how it can be reduced and eliminated. I housed and home schooled a family member who was kicked out of school and would have been sent to detention had we not offered to have him come to our home. He has been staying with another family member that was not providing stable support.

There should be no detention center

A focus on helping the parents of children earn a living wage, so they can spend more time with their children. Working two jobs just to pay the rent and keep food on the table doesn't leave any physical or emotional space for the children.

Actual plan. Lots of good intentions but no actual plan is presented. And there has to be some kind of consequences for bad behaviour. I agree the prisoner system seems to create more criminals but there has to be some kind of consequences because that is real life

More details. Less flowery vagaries. Many of these items should already be occurring (where have my tax dollars been going all these years?!). The strategies are very non-specific and do not mention the type of criminal behavior involved. The Parkland Shooter comes to mind for many people when it comes to Zero Youth Detention programs (sweep the problem under the rug and make the statistics look like they've improved). This idea is very concerning to say the least. I found the link to this survey on Neighborhood.com and I can see that I am far from alone in my concerns about this program. Already, youth are being used as pawns by adult criminals to commit crimes, since their record gets wiped clean when they turn 18. If they don't have to go to

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

detention at all... whoo-hoo! Why not get a piece of the action by doing the dirty work for an older thug, after all, what are they going to do to you? Have a nice talk? Send you to some services provided by your community taxpayers? Going to Juvie is a badge of honor (a way to gain street cred.) for kids headed down the wrong path. The problem starts at home and in the neighborhood. If Thug Life and Street Cred weren't thought of as cool, then that would help out a lot. I think that good role models need to get to these kids when they are very young. Unfortunately, the youth around here have very little options for things to do because Gang Bangers and Child Traffickers have ruined it for kids who just wanted to hang out and have fun. There does seem to be more activities in more "at risk" neighborhoods for teens in Seattle in order to keep them out of trouble (youth centers with extended hours). Centers like this would need to be policed to avoid having them turn into hot spots for bad behavior, but that's where some of the good influence can take place. Police Officers of color striking up conversations with the youth hanging out at youth centers and being mentors...showing the kids that police officers are good people and that good choices made now will lead to good outcomes later, etc. would be helpful.

What is missing is distinctions between levels of crimes committed by youth and whether those are violent or major. Youth need to spend time in detention for violent crimes, possession of guns, and felonies. The community deserves protection from violent criminals and predators regardless of the age of the offender. Instead of of coddling youth they should be taught to understand that society won't tolerate unlawful behavior so they need to respect fellow citizens not victimize them with criminal acts that the county will treat as non-transgressions.

Assumptions are made in this survey. The survey does not identify causes and back up any statement with fact. What are the sources? Why are non-white youth arrested more and incarcerated more frequently? Is it because they commit more crimes? How about the impact of single parent homes on incarceration? Why do youth of single parent families have higher incarceration rates?

Not everyone in King County believes all of this "social justice" stuff. There are "youth" that commit serious crimes and should be incarcerated. Zero Youth detention should never occur and is not possible.

What's missing is the explanation of why Dow Constantine is holding tight to the building of a YOUTH JAIL when there is a policy working towards Zero Youth Detention. That money could have been used to implement restorative justice programs, and every other strategy outlined in this survey. However, for some reason Dow has ignored community input and action. The community most impacted has solutions and ideas, yet Dow continues to ignore them. Since construction of these cages for children is already pretty far along, the only true answer now is to repurpose the building based on community input, and truly work towards Zero Youth Detention.

I am missing a disclaimer. A disclaimer that states clearly that law enforcement is still and will always be an option for certain offenses. It is rather scary to think that the objectives and strategies are put to work in EVERY case. There will always be extreme circumstances which will mandate law enforcement engagement, and this isn't stated here.

More emphasis on Strategy D align systems especially law enforcement who are the first to engage

Crisis support and ongoing funding in general for mental health and addiction services.

The police force needs to undergo a serious restructuring. The success of the LEAD program should be seen as an effective alternative to broken window policing. Cute lip synch videos are only serving to waste money and further the mistrust that communities of color justifiably hold for SPD.

We need to support communities that are facing hardship under gentrification. Preserving affordable housing is key to ensuring that all people can thrive in Seattle, which will lead to more stable households and better living circumstances for youth.

Missing from strategy d, Objective 4: additional systems to "align" are arts, sports, and business communities to provide jobs and recreational opportunities to youth and their families.

It is my opinion that Objection 3 will not happen until Objection 4 has had opportunity to flourish.

What is done to address the inequities on a systemic level? What training needs to happen for the sheriff and police department? How will we ensure they hold up their end of the bargain? The same can be said of the judicial system, in terms of laws made, juries selected, and attorneys appointed. The focus can't just be on the people being impacted, it must also be on those fomenting the inequality.

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Objective 3 talks about diverting youth when it should be law enforcement who should be diverted from arresting youth in the first place.

Divert - Divert youth from all points in the legal system towards community-based responses\* \*Use of diversion options, including diversion from detention are determined by prosecutorial and judicial discretion- what's missing is working with judicial branch to divert youth early.

Also missing are partnerships with church/faith based community, mentorship for detained youth, job opportunities and hotlist assistance for the family- if the family is in crisis helping the criminal justice involved youth is only one side of the equation. Identify and eliminate policies that result in racial disproportionality- this is key, but solving this issue transcends the detention and must be addressed at every level of the criminal justice system. Lastly, admitting racism and structural racism is real and have real impacts on black & brown people. The system is flawed as is for black and brown kids.

divert funds from the police

All of these ideas sound good on the surface, but lack the detail about HOW they will be implemented and WHAT types of programs and initiatives will be implemented under each strategy. The ideas proposed here are very general, but the crux of the county's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention lies in how these ideals and strategies will be applied in a practical day-to-day sense with young people, families, police, etc. Furthermore, in order to succeed, the programs implemented under each strategy must be adequately and fully funded, with sustainable plans for long-term funding. I also highly encourage King County to conduct periodic evaluations (including community participation and leadership) to assess whether the programs implemented under each strategy are indeed resulting in a reduction in youth incarceration in our community.

I think that these initiatives are awesome but will take alot of commnity support to get this actually going. I am seeing more and more youth being involved in violent crimes and we need to find a way to break the cycle.

What about the victims of crime committed by youth? Youth who commit crimes should be prosecuted.

No one belongs in cages- especially youth. Eliminate the cages.

Invest in opportunities for economic mobility for youth, particularly youth of color, youth experiencing homeless, and youth experiencing poverty. Create incentives for businesses and organizations to hire youth. Invest in organizations doing economic justice work (Africatown, etc.).

preventative measures to keep kids from going down the wrong path. resources for families and community engagement BEFORE problems arise.

Maybe this is already included: we need to change the laws which can constrict the ability to implement the above strategies. Also, to implement the strategies, we are going to need to devote a substantial amount of money for the foreseeable future. I'm not sure what King County's taxing options are, but property taxes aren't going to bear anymore weight. I think we need an income tax - huge endeavor, I know.

Violent youth should be incarcerated as part of our judicial system. Right now violent under-age gang members are caught with firearms or in stolen cars and are released back into the community in hours if not days. They are not held responsible in any way. Your policies are making things worse!

Other adults seeking help to not end up back in the legal system.

Accountability.

Another essential aspect of a plan to reach "zero youth detention" is to defund our county youth detention center. As long as its funded, there will be youth detained in the facility.

Mental Health Serves.

What is this all about? Unknown if the assertions are true. Statistical support? If King County is pushing for Zero Youth Detention, then why the new detention center that is being built? Confusing. Is Zero Youth Detention realistic? Is the Prosecuting Attorney's

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

Office onboard with this? What about the minimum mandatory sentencing laws? How does this all fit together? Maybe I missed a link to any articles or background on this. Cognitively dissonant.

Removing Dow Constantine! The issue is the excessive corruption in King County led by Dow Constantine. Nothing that is proposed at this time will EVER be effective so long as the leaders are corrupt and on the take. The Marijuana industry in King County is the best and most available insight to exactly how corrupt and dishonest the leaders of King County are. Don't use the kids to hide behind your corruption to be able to make claims of being a good person so you can run for governor. This survey is nothing but junk as none of what is proposed will EVER come to help kids so long as Dow Constantine is in any office in Washington State.

Defund the youth detention center. As long as there is funding, youth are detained. Divert those funds into these actions you are naming above and show that you are serious about eliminating youth jails.

You need to lock up people who commit serious crimes. Once you take away their most valuable commodity, time, they'll understand why it doesn't pay to commit crimes. If they continue to commit more crimes, take away more of their time.

Increased support for families with very young children 0-6,

Not missing, but I want to reinforce the importance of dedicating resources of all kinds to the restorative justice process. Restorative justice is the way to help our community, and calls for full community involvement.

It does not matter the youth's color, if there is evidence that a youth has committed a crime, arrest them, investigate, no evidence release them, evidence use the judicial system, detain if necessary. Youths need different paths than adults (usually) but they need guidance and zero detention will only make the issue worse. How does someone learn if there are never consequences? Perform poorly at a job = look for work again soon; hurt someone else or their property = detention. Do the crime, pay the time.

The Chief of Police support of this measure. Nothing is going to change until the police do. Until the police continue to see people as black or white then nothing is going to change sadly. Look at Treyvon Martin and all the police that kill unarmed black males and all the cops get let go scott free and cops continue to abuse their power. I know first handedly because my brother is a retired cop and is racist. He refers to black people as niggers and Mexicans as spics.

A question of "Do you support Zero Youth Detention?" Not just whether you agree or disagree with certain parts of it. Zero Youth Detention will help promote a "do as you wish, we won't punish you if you are a minor" attitude. The complete wrong direction. The only way to teach minors is through accountability, responsibility, and punishment when needed. It would be nice to live in a utopia where no one commits crime but we don't, and it's getting worse due to the hands off approach.

The four general strategies listed above may be effective for non-violent drug-related crime, but only if participation is mandatory and incarceration is an option for those continually refusing accountability. I'm not so optimistic for those older youth convicted of serious violent crimes.

The services described in this outline absolutely must not be provided in the same location as the detention center. To provide those services in the same location as detention is traumatizing and inappropriate. These services should be available at multiple locations in King County to reduce the transportation burden to the families of these youths.

The construction of the new youth jail must be halted immediately! As a Seattle resident living near the construction site it has been demoralizing to see this monstrous cage for children metastasize in defiance of the will of the people. The policies in this survey have the potential to move us to ZYD, but will be meaningless if the new youth jail construction is completed. Construction must be halted completely and the county must engage with the community to re-purpose this structure.

Where we invest money. How much do we spend on detention facilities, employees of them, police response and officers, etc. as opposed to community based programs. The above strategies do not seem to be concrete in terms of these trade-offs or acknowledge how past investments in systems that prioritize blame, police intervention and incarceration are hard to overcome without significant re-prioritization of resources.

NO NEW YOUTH JAIL. AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

I would like to see secure detention remain an option both for very extreme circumstances (murder, rape, etc) and to see it remain as an option but shift towards a much more therapeutic approach. Many youth who find themselves in secure detention are in

## **Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

extreme crisis and need a safe place to get out of that crisis. Detention is often their first and best chance for regular mental health and drug treatment. Making sure staff reflect the community at large and are well trained in therapeutic techniques means that this could be the first time youth are interacting with a trusted adult who is truly looking out for their best interest.

Removing secure detention completely seems like a good idea in a vacuum, but like any option will not work in every single situation and is short sighted.

Sex offender specific language and or policy. If a youth gets a sext from someone they are all of a sudden in possession of child pornography and can have the book thrown at them. We need to realize that youth are going to sext each other regardless of laws but we need to not ruin the rest of their life because they are young and dumb.

We should not be jailing our youth or trying them as adults.

Seen parents step in to protect teenagers from consequences and those kids end up back in the same cycle of getting in trouble and not caring. Taking this into consideration is vastly important and I think closely connected to mental health. Also being aware of teenagers who would 'exploit' a mental illness diagnosis as an excuse to continue acting out(including suddenly manifesting all other symptoms of said illness that were not previously noted). I've unfortunately seen it happen and it doesn't get much better with growing up.

Mental health professionals available in cases where the offenses may have been caused by an underlying mental illness. Also they could help identify youth at risk for suicide. May be in there, just didn't see it.

Strong and consistent law enforcement, appropriate response to crime, deterrents to committing crime, safety of the community. This survey is an absolute outrage. You should be ashamed and of course unelected at the next possible opportunity.

Prosecutors and politicians that do the job we are paying to do.

This is just an extension of the foster care system - a system that has too many clients and clients who are just sucking out what they can get from the system. There will always be staffing shortages and not enough resources in the system to fit a families needs.

Objective 3 needs more work with the strategies. You cannot just say you want to divert youth from the legal process by diverting them from the various points in the legal process.

Stop building the youth Jail and actually have 0 detention.

City of Seattle-wide free Wi-Fi in every household and public spaces. Kids who don't have Wi-Fi are at a huge disadvantage in school from very early days.

Support for parents to earn a living wage and have a stable home in a diverse neighborhood where they put down roots and know the neighbors. Find a way to subsidize homeowners who create DADU, rent below market and stabilize rent over 10-year period.

Accessible FREE medical care, counseling, mental health treatment, prescriptions, rehab, birth control, and abortions for youth.

Much stronger training for school ACADEMIC guidance counselors to help youths create a path to academic success.

Create opportunities for young people to work in city government offices, Seattle Center, court, transit so they feel invested in Seattle and know that we are investing in them.

THE FREE ORCA CARDS for high-school students ARE GREAT. I would like to see this expanded to Vashon Island and Bainbridge Island too.

If a family is made up of criminals or is otherwise hell-bent on perpetration of crimes and therefore models this behavior to the youth, the youth is most likely to follow suit. Focus needs to be on the family, their attitudes, culture, morals or lack thereof, whatever that makes lawbreaking ok or even condoned and encouraged (!) in a given family. This education needs to be made early. I believe ZYD is a great goal, but youth from such a family may keep offending with impunity without attention to the family. There needs to be a distinction between the wayward, unfortunate one-time offender kid who commits a crime and the kid from the career criminal/deviant family.....

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: General Public**

---

I speak from personal experience with no formal education on the subject.

What mechanism ensures that the person who committed a crime will actually utilize the new approach? Question: if the new program diverts the offender from the legal system how can they be expected to utilize community resources, etc if they are not convicted of the crime? I believe the core problem with youth and crime is that the responsible adult(s) are failing to properly care (with love) and control their children. The problem is the parent not doing their job. Regarding racial inequities, that is directly related to white adults with power being allowed to exercise their personal bigotry and racism. I assume with extreme hope that profiling is against policy but that doesn't matter because profiling absolutely occurs. How many ignorant and/or racist whites have I heard say that they believe that black people commit crimes as part of their culture and at a higher amount than non-blacks? Countless times here in the open minded Northwest. I don't see how the proposed program will address the real reasons for the racial inequities - the adults with power and control.

## Appendix V

## Summary Of Responses

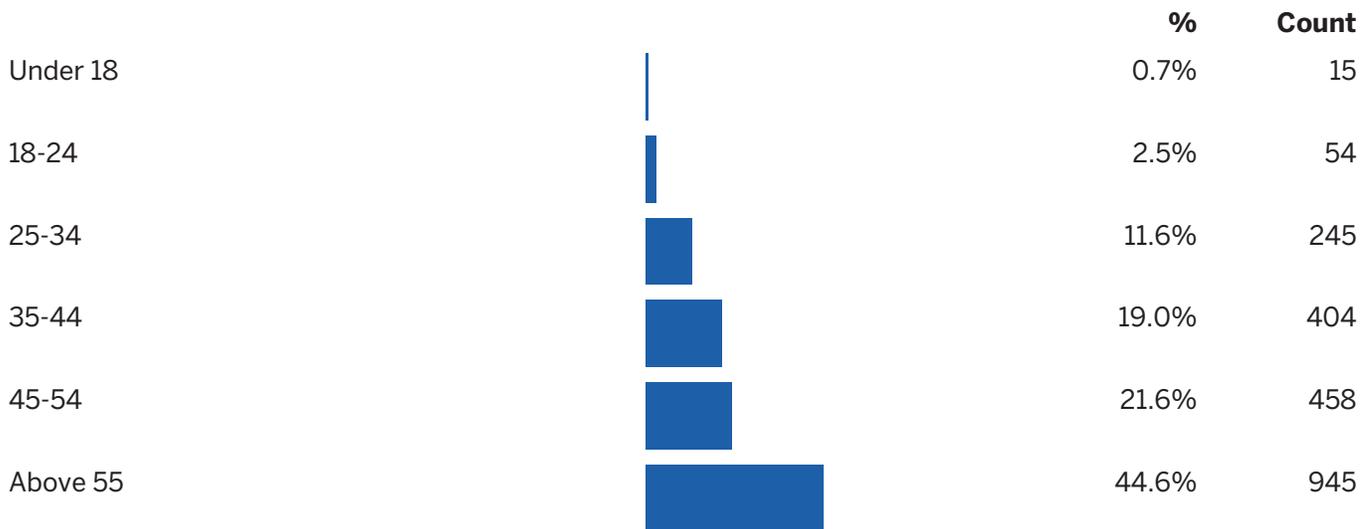
<b>As of August 28, 2018, 8:18 AM, this forum had:</b>	<b>Topic Start</b>	<b>Topic End</b>
Attendees: 3040	July 26, 2018, 12:35 PM	August 10, 2018, 12:05 PM
Responses: 2121		
Hours of Public Comment: 106.1		

### QUESTION 1

**1. Race/Ethnicity - King County seeks to elevate the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by the juvenile legal system. For this reason, the survey includes demographic questions:**

		%	Count
Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American		6.5%	137
Non-Hispanic White or Euro-American		70.2%	1490
Latinx or Hispanic American		3.3%	70
East Asian or Asian American		4.0%	85
South Asian or Indian American		1.1%	24
Middle Eastern or Arab American		0.6%	12
Native American or Alaskan Native		2.1%	44
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander		0.8%	18
Other		11.4%	241

2. Age:



QUESTION 3

**3. Zipcode**

Answered	2,121
Skipped	0

QUESTION 4

**4. Have you or an immediate family member been directly impacted by legal system involvement?**

**(Because King County seeks to elevate the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by the juvenile legal system, this survey includes this legal system involvement question.)**



QUESTION 5

**5. If you answered yes and are willing to provide additional information, please provide a brief description of legal system involvement that has impacted your family (300 characters or less)**

Answered	525
Skipped	1,596

QUESTION 6

**6. I believe Objective 1 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County’s efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**

		%	Count
Strongly disagree		25.8%	542
Disagree		14.5%	304
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree		10.8%	227
Agree		26.4%	554
Strongly agree		22.5%	473

QUESTION 7

**7. I believe Objective 2 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County’s efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**

		%	Count
Strongly disagree		19.6%	410
Disagree		11.7%	246
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree		9.5%	199
Agree		28.1%	590
Strongly agree		31.1%	651

QUESTION 8

**8. I believe Objective 3 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**

		%	Count
Strongly disagree		28.7%	598
Disagree		15.1%	314
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree		12.0%	251
Agree		20.1%	420
Strongly agree		24.1%	503

QUESTION 9

**9. I believe Objective 4 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**

		%	Count
Strongly disagree		17.1%	357
Disagree		9.4%	197
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree		12.4%	259
Agree		31.8%	664
Strongly agree		29.2%	608

QUESTION 10

**10. What is missing? (Optional)**

Answered	1,093
Skipped	1,028

## Summary Of Responses

As of September 1, 2018, 3:36 PM, this forum had: **Topic Start**

Attendees: 60 July 31, 2018, 3:36 PM  
 Responses: 11  
 Minutes of Public Comment: 33

**Topic End**

August 10, 2018, 12:07 PM

### QUESTION 1

#### 1. Raza/Etnia: (Marque lo que aplique a ud.)

		%	Count
Latinx o Hispanx Americanx		100.0%	11

### QUESTION 2

#### 2. Edad:

		%	Count
18-24		27.3%	3
25-34		9.1%	1
35-44		36.4%	4
45-54		9.1%	1
Mayor de 55		18.2%	2

### QUESTION 3

#### 3. Código postal

Answered 11  
 Skipped 0

QUESTION 4

**4. Ha sido usted o un miembrx familiar inmediato impactadx directamente por el sistema legal?**

**(Because King County seeks to elevate the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by the juvenile legal system, this survey includes this legal system involvement question.)**

		%	Count
Si		36.4%	4
No		63.6%	7

QUESTION 5

**5. Si contestó que si, y está dispuestx a proporcionar más información, por favor describa brevemente la situación con el sistema legal que ha impactado a su familia (voluntariamente).**

Answered	1
Skipped	10

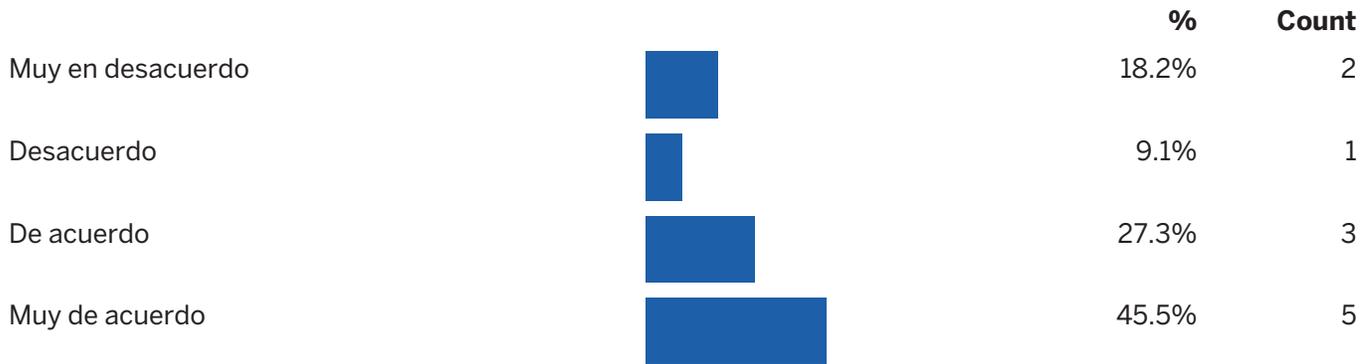
QUESTION 6

**Yo creo que Objetivo 1 y las estrategias asociadas seran efectivas en los esfuerzos de King County hacia Zero Detención de Jovenes:**

		%	Count
Muy en desacuerdo		18.2%	2
Desacuerdo		9.1%	1
De acuerdo		27.3%	3
Muy de acuerdo		45.5%	5

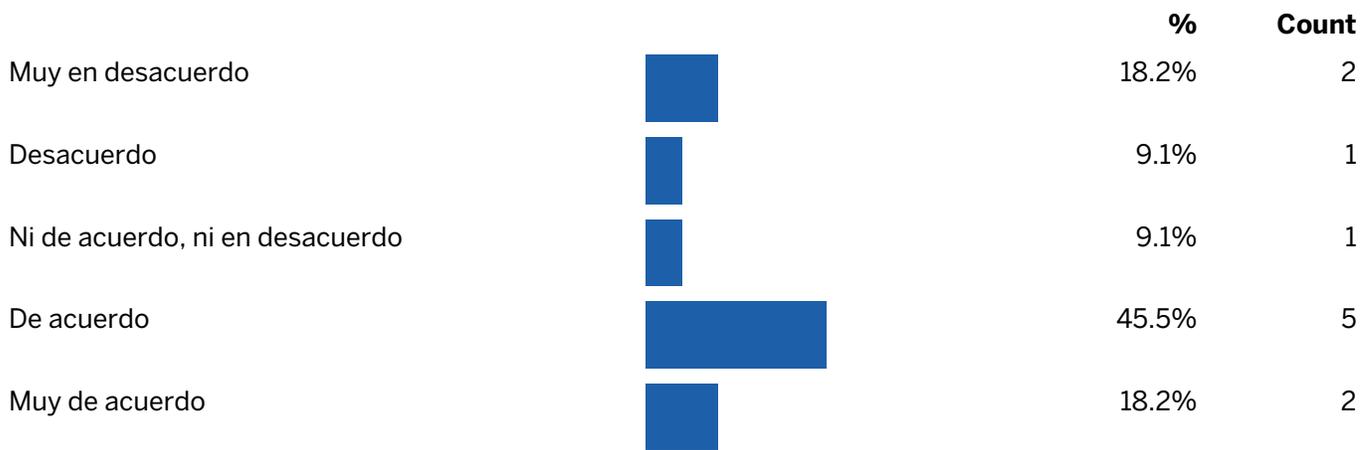
QUESTION 7

**7. Yo creo que Objetivo 2 y las estrategias asociadas seran efectivas en los esfuerzos de King County hacia Zero Detención de Jovenes:**



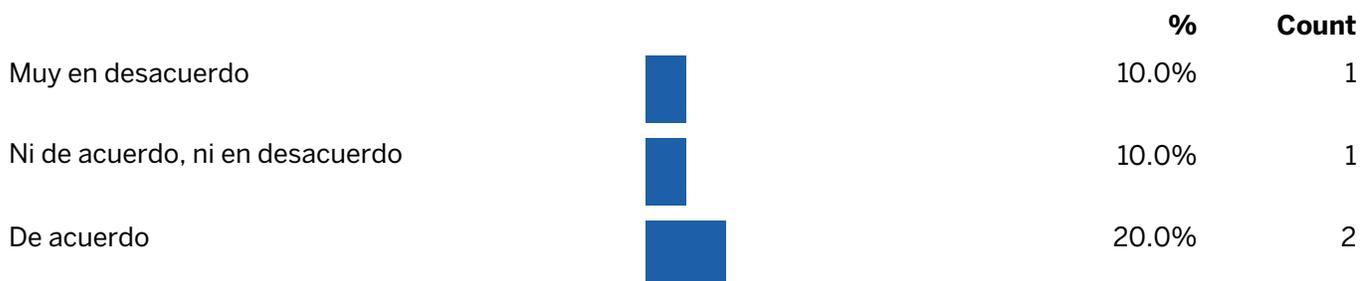
QUESTION 8

**8. Yo creo que Objetivo 3 y las estrategias asociadas seran efectivas en los esfuerzos de King County hacia Zero Detención de Jovenes:**



QUESTION 9

**9. Yo creo que Objetivo 4 y las estrategias asociadas seran efectivas en los esfuerzos de King County hacia Detención de Zero Jovenes:**



		<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>
Muy de acuerdo		60.0%	6

---

QUESTION 10

**10. ¿Qué hace falta?**

Answered	4
Skipped	7

---

## Appendix W

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

*Comments below were provided by King County employees who the Road Map to Zero Youth Detention employee survey. Comments were provided in response to Question 10: What's Missing. They are unedited by county staff.*

---

I think we need to take a holistic approach. With trauma being one of the highest risk factors for becoming involved in the criminal justice system, it's important to treat communities that have generations of trauma ingrained. Families and whole communities need to be supported. I believe institutional racism and trauma passed down through generations lead to winding up in the criminal justice system. We have to treat trauma in addition to institutional racism. Without treating both, we will not realistically see a decline in disproportionality of youth of color.

What you are missing is the fact that services need to be free and easily accessed early on- elementary school, middle school, immediately upon asking. When you wait until youth are teens or the moment of opportunity has passed, many people do not WANT to engage in services. Please recognize that a lot of the youth on probation, and prior to that, refuse services. There is also the fact that counseling takes desire, dedication and a long time to result in changed behaviors, for adults: our youth can dig very deep holes for themselves long before even 1 of those factors is present. Birth to 5 are the formative years: we need to work on reducing ACES, teaching self regulation skills, helping youth fit in and feel like they belong. We also need to work at improving the lives of entire families (for example getting a youth clean and sober when the parents have active addictions does not work). I put 'neutral' when I agreed with the objective but not all of the strategies. We also need to look at the other side of the coin, privilege: disparate policing and practices in various areas of the county, wealthy and highly employed (often white) people's children getting breaks others would not be given when they are referred, measuring referrals by police jurisdiction and making that information known (perhaps even rating them on an equity in policing scale), in school nutrition, health and mental health services from elementary school on. Spend some real time sitting in court to learn about the youth, families and situations people at the court are dealing with and then be realistic about what you think could be done better. You will hear a lot of parents as well as victims of crime with opinions and desires opposite of what has filled the media for the past couple of years.

I agree with the Objective 1 and the strategies, but I don't think that the community will be safe because of it, thus it will not lead to ZYD.

A policy needs to be established to help prevent poverty with all boats rising together, feeling a part of a community and not left out due to poverty will have a better impact.

Although I agree with Objective 2: Prevention and the strategies I strongly disagree with the 2nd part of the summation of the explanation:

The response to young people in crisis is to too often refer them to the legal system and to remove youth from their homes. Incarceration is a harmful, ineffective, and expensive response to youth in crisis.

The premise is faulty, when dealing with youth. Historically, youth who are detained locally, have not gotten services in the community until being put on probation and this practice is in the process of changing. I have youth who were sent to State Rehabilitation services who have thanked me for saving their lives and who came out to be valedictorian of their graduating class. Rehabilitation out of the home is sometimes very effective and often parents need that kind of help.

Although I believe these are good strategies, many youth ALREADY are figuring that they can continue anti-social behaviors because nothing is going to happen. We are setting youth up for ADULT involvement. Some Diverted matters are an abrogation of our responsibility as a safety net system to prevent ADULT incarceration. Many of my less anti-social youth are telling me that they are UPSET that some of the kids don't get held. They are fearful of the ones who are violent and lack empathy.

Community education on racial equity and why it is important that we all work together to divert our youth from the juvenile justice system and to positively support them.

As much as youth and people who support them need focus, the systems that contribute to marginalization also need changing. I support Objective 4, strategy d and f, but really changing systems that cause harm needs to be a focus of this work, and it comes pretty late in the list of strategies. Changing systems is complex work and includes narrative changes, paradigms, mindsets, policies, positive feedback, negative feedback, etc., etc. Anything we can do to change the criminal justice system itself will pay off in spades.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

How we best support youth in the interim on our road to zero detention (for youth that do have to be detained, how do we ensure it's the best possible situation); raising the voices of youth themselves who have been or are going through these systems; whether a goal of zero is realistic, or if there are rare, serious scenarios in which detention will be necessary; how we rebuild and make reparations in communities, families, and with youth who have experienced detention and the disproportionate impacts.

These are missing: talk of utilizing Evidence Based Models like Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT) are intensive family treatment models for delinquent youth. Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC), troubled and delinquent youth are placed with specially trained foster families for six to nine months while their parents (or legal guardians) receive intensive counseling and parent training. After a series of home visits, the families are then reunited and provided with ongoing support until the home situation is stabilized. Wraparound services, Rigorous career preparation and vocational training such as those provided by YouthBuild. Mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, Specialty court programs such as the nearly 500 juvenile drug courts operating nationwide. See this website: <http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-NoPlaceForKidsFullReport-2011.pdf#page=18>

Re: objective 1 - Having services/programs in place that are adequately funded to address these concerns & goals (e.g The ROYAL Project); to further achieve those goals, hiring culturally reflective staff who are also competent in their work.

re: objective 3 - A realization that not all youth arrested can be diverted into community services (e.g. arrested for serious/violent offenses, charged as adults) and there needs to be a number of detention beds for them since they cannot be held in an adult facility

Unquestionably, attaining the objectives and strategies above would reduce youth in the justice system. But the root causes of crime that include poverty, racism, violence, weapons, drugs, etc, are pervasive in our society. Unless these systemic societal issues are addressed, law enforcement and the courts will not be able to reverse the damage caused to families and children before they come into contact with the system. Dealing with the underlying causes is where ultimate solutions lie. All of these reforms sound great, but as stated they are extremely vague. It is easy to say "expand", "engage", "ensure", "align", but not easy to achieve. It is a mistake to think that people working with juveniles are not already striving to achieve these goals, but large, complex systems are not perfect. There always is room for improvement, which we must constantly seek. I just hope the people driving these recommendations are willing to take these kids into their homes, counsel families, hire felons, or work in law enforcement, and not just sit in an office and come up with lovely aspirational goals.

Individual and family connections within the communities that will hold families and youth accountable for their actions well before the connection to the school or justice systems we're trying to reform. All of this requires a community response which the county can only support.

In recent years, King County has made great strides toward zero youth detention through diversion and other programs. Unfortunately, judges are still going to lock up youth who commit certain violent offenses. Therefore, we as a community need to look at the causes of how and why a child encounters the judicial system. All too often, the children come from families who are struggling with poverty, homelessness, health problems, addiction, mental illness and domestic violence. We need to devote resources (money, time, volunteers) to helping children from an early age to stay in school, to helping parents address their issues (and by loving supportive means, not by breaking up families in dependency court proceedings).

The County needs to actually practice restorative justice rather than use it as a buzz word to get grant money while simultaneously setting up youth to fail. I've seen the King County Prosecutors Office wait until a child turns 18 to file charges on actions that occurred while the child was still a youth, presumably in an effort to circumvent the juvenile justice system. Also, the county's concept of "youth" needs to take into account persons all the way up to age 21, because more often than not, the State is seeking to prosecute and incarcerate youth from 18 to 21 and treat them as adults even though the science tells us that their brains are still developing. If you're truly going to address zero youth detention, you need to start with the prosecutor's office who doesn't seem to share that value system. Also, I would like to see an equity toolkit used to inform these policies. DEFUND the new youth jail and don't pretend like this is a "new family building" when it literally has cages in it for youth.

The acknowledgement that all of these things are huge undertakings, requiring substantial financial resources, far beyond those of the county's ability.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

We need more resources that address the core issues related to detention of youth - poverty, housing instability, lack of pro-social activities, family dynamics. need more services that meet youth and family where they are at (literally and figuratively). More street outreach for youth and family. More evidenced family based services such as MST, FFT, MST for problem sexual behavior for pre-trial youth. there needs to be more resources available for pre-trial youth vs. youth sentenced to probation.

The treatment of juvenile status offenders also needs to be addressed and there must be alternatives to detaining these youth. In other states they have the ability to issue warrants but are specifically "do not detain" warrants.

A more thorough description of the plan to build the system to support families is missing. None of this will work unless families in the community have the support they need to manage themselves - adults and youth - in dealing with the effects of poverty, mental health and substance abuse issues and poor health outcomes. Also, it is naïve to believe that there can be zero detention - for a very few kids, there is no safe community setting that is safe for them and the community. If the inpatient mental health system was more robust and reliable for managing youth, then that might be an alternative, but that is not currently the case

You cannot possibly advance anything other than continued involvement in the system and revolving door cycles if you respond to a problem with your current jail by building a new one. These are children. They have developing brains, developing bodies, and developing views of the world. There is no such thing as working towards "racial equality" and "reform that improves the lives of youth" when the new money expenditure is a new lock-down facility.

There should not be a new youth jail. The funding and support for this should be used for the first three objectives, with heavy emphasis on changing policies and practices that lead to citation and/or arrest, specifically of POCs. Additionally, There should be additional support for teachers and others for ESJ training to help them understand their biases. Funds for empowering affected communities should also have wide parameters to empower them to create their own strategies to address inequity rather than being told how to do it.

Those in the decision making process are those that are putting our youth in this legal system. Once they have a stigma of being involved in the court system, it follows with them and everyone else around them the rest of their lives. We need to place the people that believe in helping our youth in those places where change can be made. We are putting the wrong people in those places that don't want to be there, they are there for a check, not hopeful change. An example is, just because one has a teaching degree, doesn't mean they should be teaching our kids.

This may be covered already- but access to financial opportunity, training, or assistance for parents/families. I am seeing an increase in the number of youth left unsupervised for longer periods of time because their parent(s) must work beyond 40 hours per week to make ends meet. Youth are raising themselves, and parents cannot hold youth accountable when they aren't able to be present.

more training in restorative justice practices

Current data regarding the number of youth incarcerated in juvenile detention during 2016-2017 as well as the number and types of alleged crimes they were charged with.

(If you really want to see a decrease in racial/minority over-representation in the juvenile detention system): Increase minority community engagement with law enforcement officers to stop or decrease over-policing of said neighborhoods (THIS is what results in "racial disproportionality" in youth detention centers/jails; everything else is secondary). Alternatively, start increasing the policing of white neighborhoods (obviously, this is unrealistic, since whites tend to have more wealth than minorities {blacks in particular}; "the more money, the less cops" so the saying goes). Also, there is ZERO distinction being made here between petty/misdemeanor crimes, and SERIOUS crimes, like rape, assault+battery, armed robbery and murder; surely, no one is advocating "zero detention" for serious crimes such as these...releasing into the community offenders who commit such crimes does not make the community "safe" (and places too big an onus on the community and its limited services): If you want to reduce racial disparity in detention centers, long-term, first: stop blaming this on the mere existence of detention centers (misidentifying the cause); second: we need more well-paying, worthwhile (= value + status) youth activity and jobs programs (e.g., special skills/vocational training, creative/public beautification/art projects, sports camps, paid internships [e.g., finance/investing], science/nature expeditions [field research programs/youth scientists], etc.). "Youth" / teens want money, identity/belonging, and efficacy (same as you). These other listed strategies MAY have some positive impact, but, imo, are mostly "feel good" strategies for policy makers and social activists/engineers (plus, cost?/benefit?).

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

While I like what I'm reading here, I want to hear more about the "how"--at each step a person (law enforcement, schools, etc.) makes a decision, and implicit bias and racism play a part in that decision. Also, one of my partner's friends is currently incarcerated at WCCW, serving a long sentence after having been convicted at 14. Due to the nature of her crime (murder), I think she would likely be incarcerated even in a ZYD model (even with more progressive understanding of brain development). So, what about those folks? It's easy for a kid in that situation to feel "thrown away." For her, Echo Glen was an absolute life saver. One other thing I'd like to see a change in: attitudes towards people who have committed murder. Recidivism among this group is very low and, in the case of youth, there is often a lack of awareness of actions and consequences (and a high response to peer pressure). I get really frustrated when people focus on low level drug-related crime, and say, "It's not like he murdered someone," when, in fact, understanding the situation surrounding a murder is always much more complex.

These tools are hopeful, but what about the tools for intervention before youth end up at this point. So often children who act out are in need of help and yet the school system expels them. This factor very much determines their outcome. They lose their social group, structure and education. I believe many school districts need to be more in tune with their vulnerable children and provide support and services early. Early intervention is key.

I would include greater accountability for police, and policies designed to reduce police violence and racism, and reverse police militarization. In general, while I believe the proposed solutions would lead to significant improvements, I think they will fall short of the goal without aggressive antipoverty measures. Without things like good jobs, living wages, and affordable housing, those who suffer disproportionately from poverty and discrimination will likely continue to have disproportionate contact with law enforcement and the courts. While the legal system should, and can, take significant measures to be more fair by taking that into account, I think it is important to simultaneously address deeper social issues.

Though objectives 2, 3 and 4 touch on the involvement and continuum of community based services in the legal system, I feel that the judicial system needs to be strongly informed by community services such as behavioral health and housing. Knowing that sometimes the home is not the best place for a young person, but also that jail is absolutely no place. Many European nations believe and have an integrated family court and youth system where social workers, psychiatrists, judges and attorneys work with one another to come to a conclusion and create a personalized course for the youth and/or family to follow whether it be counseling, various layers of engagement, etc. it's made as a comprehensive and holistic team in the best interest of the young person.

1) work with children of incarcerated parents - expand the DOC's FOSA program to break that cycle. Ensure that services are offered to families to engage the children and caregivers left behind when a parent is incarcerated.

2) Expand services provided to parents for drug treatment or mental health treatment to include their children, create a space for children of parents who are using drugs to learn how to avoid the same pitfalls.

3) Ensure that youth are engaged in meaningful treatment as diversions - a client told me today that his first arrest was for a "minor in possession" of alcohol. He was given community service. How does community service help a kid, who is not even 18 years old yet, develop any kind of understanding of the risks of alcohol consumption? If he'd been engaged in any kind of treatment, they might have learned that his parents both regularly used drugs around him, that drugs and alcohol were a regular part of his life and maybe with help he would not have gone on to become my client (criminal public defense).

I strongly agree with the county's mission to end youth detention and to focus resources and efforts to find preventative and rehabilitative programs for youth in our community. However I think that building a multi-million dollar new youth detention facility defeats this purpose and creates a community investment in the long term incarceration of youth. I realize that this facility will offer a variety of preventative services, but expecting youth to access services at a place where they were incarcerated or where the threat of incarceration readily exists, is not providing trauma informed care and is a huge deterrent to youth in need.

Additionally, if getting youth out of detention is the goal, then funding needs to go to a variety of preventative services throughout the county to serve youth in areas with little access to resources particularly South and North King County, not centered in central Seattle where many low-income and families of color are being displaced. If equity is the goal (and it should be) services need to be where people in need can access them.

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

I think the county has the right ideas expressed in their policies, and I understand the need to make the current youth detention center inhabitable and safe while other resources are created, but this needs to occur through a small renovation, making the facility less like a jail and reducing of beds, not through huge spending and an investment in youth incarceration.

King County needs to financially invest in a future of zero youth detention, not in a future of jailing kids. We need a commitment to use our money to create the future we want and minimize all budgets going to the incarceration system of the past. Without making significant and real monetary shifts this plan will look like lip service.

Lack of accountability. We should be less focused on the process and more concerned about the ultimate result. The current proposal focuses on the process to the detriment of the result. We want to feel that we are being progressive and responsible by completely eliminating detention, but that will be less humane for everyone involved in the long-term.

I have represented numerous juvenile clients as a defense attorney, in cases ranging from theft to rape to manslaughter. Often my clients suffered from too much leniency, rarely from too little accountability. That makes it difficult to truly rehabilitate them or prevent future crime. Many of those youths felt that they had escaped responsibility and would not be punished if they repeated their mistakes. This reinforced many of their dangerous beliefs or personality traits (such as a sense of superiority to their parents or teachers), which frequently led to escalating patterns of crime. Several of my clients who suffered little to no restrictions on their liberty (during their first case) went on to commit heinous crimes later, including rape and very serious violent offenses, such as manslaughter and an assault that resulted in disfiguring facial burns to the victim.

On the other hand, I've defended struggling youth who made an extremely serious mistake (such as sexual assault), and they showed dramatic improvements following a few weeks of detention or counseling. In those situations, I less commonly ended up being assigned another one of their cases. The juvenile detention experience motivated many of them to make long-lasting and meaningful changes, or at least that is what they and their parents often told me. I have had some of these clients tell me years later that they appreciated how the juvenile court system pushed them to become better members of society, despite the initial unpleasantness of being detained against their will in a facility.

I've seen the relationship between softer approaches and the prevalence of serious crime here, and I am concerned that we are not truly deterring crime or helping juveniles, their families, or victims when we seek too much leniency. I have spent countless late nights defending youth in these situations and I write this opinion out of concern for my prior juvenile clients. I do not make these comments out of any animosity for young people who make mistakes. My position may seem unusual, but I think it shows that a stricter approach can be motivated by love and compassion for juveniles. This is critical to having an open discussion on this topic, instead of vilifying those who have differing viewpoints. We are NOT doing these impressionable juveniles service when we release them prematurely, before they have been able to reflect and experience a true change in perspective. In the past several months, two lives have been lost in incidents involving juveniles, including a law enforcement officer recently.

If given the choice, in hindsight, I am sure that those young men would rather have spent some more time in detention and NOT have been in a position where they would cause the deaths of other people. They couldn't have stabbed another teenager or gone on a high-speed chase resulting in the death of police, if they had been detained at the time of these fatal crimes. The results could have been different and it is intellectually dishonest to say otherwise. It is a mistake to believe that our intention to eliminate detention will automatically result in better lives for most juveniles. Some additional limitation on their freedom can be in their best interests. We may feel better about ourselves in the short-term if we completely eliminate detention, but that is not worth the long-term freedom of these young men and women. Releasing some of these juvenile offenders too soon did not make them more free -- it actually is depriving their freedom, because now they are being prosecuted for killing other members of our community. These juvenile offenders will suffer trauma for the rest of their lives, regardless of the punishment the court system does or does not inflict on them. How many of them will become mentally unstable or unable to have loving relationships going forward? How many of them will have guilt haunting them for the rest of their lives? How is that more kind to these juveniles than imposing more strictness up-front? Erring on the side of more accountability or detention can be preferable in the long-term. There is NOTHING humane about releasing someone and giving them the freedom to harm others in the name of political trends. Even if our ONLY goal is protect the freedom and dignity of the juveniles and totally disregard the safety of the community, it would be reasonable to impose stricter conditions early on so that these young people do not make tragic mistakes that result in further long-term incarceration. How many other innocent people or police officers need to die before we put safety of the juveniles and the community before feel-good politics? We can keep juveniles more safe and more free ultimately by employing detention and stricter probation at an earlier

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

phase of these cases. That is not to say that all juvenile offenders need a period of detention, but it is a tool that should be used when appropriate, commensurate with the crime that has occurred or the risk for future harm.

What can be done for youth currently involved in the system? How can reparations be made for the injustices they've experienced? What kind of services and support do they need NOW and in the future so they can be successful? You are proposing major changes in juvenile justice programs so how will you assess the staff you currently employ re their willingness to implement these strategies?

Is there a plan to support increased, authentic community engagement by law enforcement? I can understand budget constraints and a multitude of priorities that the police and sheriff's department face, however law enforcement needs to be seen in the community as a member...not simply as enforcer of the law. In the state that we are in nationally, I'm not sure how families of color trust the intentions (collectively and individually) of law enforcement agencies and their officers. Preventing incarceration and diverting legal system involvement is key, and how will law enforcement support those efforts? Are they committed to responding in a different manner? How will they build trust within communities where there is none, or the police are not viewed as a resource or an ally.

we are not treating homelessness seriously. Ever since the 1970s/80s, Seattle has not managed homelessness. It is a 30 year old issue, exacerbated by recent economic events, and we must act now. Also, kiddos with parents who cannot earn a living income, are seriously at-risk. We must find ways to help those parents but also work on programs to help at-risk kiddos. For example, why is Detective Cookie's program so under funded and not marketed to kiddos better? Why are summer programs and after-school programs, plus playground activities, so minimalized in King County?

In my opinion Zero detention is impossible. The number of youth that come into detention can be lowered but, there will always be the youth that have serious/violent crimes that can not be out in the community to hurt other people. The safety of the community should be #1 priority for King County.

I believe a clearer strategy for creating a workforce that is "reflective" of the youth and culturally-responsive is needed. Utilizing Credible messengers mentors is a great strategy and King County should consider amending it's background check requirements so that mentors with shared experiences can engage with youth who are incarcerated. Also, what other recruiting components are being changed or added to meet this objective? I'm also interested in how King county can better support grass root non-profits that we contract for supportive services. Some on them pay their hard working staff less than livable wage while they put in all the work to meet the County's outcomes needs. How are we supposed to uplift a community if we are letting those who are uplifting our youth live in poverty?

Convert youth records from the past that do not comply with ESJ so ensure that these individuals aren't haunted by past racial injustices.

The County's role in advocating for free behavioral health care/addiction services that are culturally responsive and immediately available. Additionally (and what is probably beyond the scope of this document or even what the County can feasibly do), this document or strategy could also be strengthened by addressing economic injustices that force families into difficult choices (ex: attending a support group that reduces recidivism but choosing between that and making extra money by taking more shifts at work).

Make and SUSTAIN a commitment to this work. We've had great and PROVEN programs that were defunded because people didn't see the value or wanted to put their own stamp on things. The project ReInvesting in Youth (late 90's) was evidenced-based and reduced number of youth in detention and recidivism rates. It was an early adopter of work on disproportionately, undoing institutional racism training for leadership, staff, judges etc. It was defunded early 2000's and it's unfortunate here we are launching the same work again.

In order for change to effectively impact families and youth access to effective quality services needs to be available, this is currently not the case. Often community mental health agencies are not equipped to meet the needs of our most trauma affected youth and Medicaid will not pay for more skilled or specialty clinicians. When families are struggling to survive and provide basic necessities there is not an ability or capacity to begin healing through trauma work or services because meeting basic needs requires focus and energy. Because the county contracts out intervention services rather than providing services in house and directly and because of the narrow job descriptions professionals already employed by the county who are equipped to provide these services with families

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

are often limited in being allowed to utilize these skills. Intervention and services also need to occur as early as possible, by the time the youth has reached detention often there have been missed opportunities for intervention and prevention.

I would be interested to see more ongoing strategies that include youth and their families, particularly those at risk. Also, on #2, I'd be interested to see more development of how the strategies hold youth accountable. That seems challenging.

Sadly, there are currently some youth who are detained because they have been harmful toward others. This is our current reality. When police bring youth to detention, who greets them? Are they greeted only by jail booking staff? Can the County ensure that there are therapeutic professionals (MDs, nurses, social workers) who are also there as part of the "booking team?" Even youth who commit murder or violent assault should have access to therapeutic responders, not just jail staff.

Policy change is one thing. Heart and mind changing is another. Showing the positive outcomes is important to those who don't think it is effective. Increased training and cultural competencies for school administrators, police, and judges is important - would be specific, not just "workforce". Finding job opportunities and places for community service for these youth is essential for engaging them. Research into what has worked in other areas. Eliminating gang violence.

Assure structurally, that every dollar saved from these strategies is reinvested into building capacity in the community.

We need more people of color in teaching and all levels of engaging with youth to provide strong mentorship and to demonstrate ways out of lives of crime.

1. For offenders that have served their sentence, there should be some way for them to have a "cleaning" of their background so, for example, if they are going to be hired, they are not turned down due to some negative part of their background/history 2. Figure out why youth (esp minorities) are so distrusting of law enforcement, then fix that

The King County Prosecutor continues to punish juveniles who refuse to plead guilty or testify against members of their community by recommending higher detention sentences and adding more serious charges; it's difficult to understand how these practices contribute to "zero" detention. Similarly, the contradiction between Dow's embrace of zero detention while simultaneously constructing a youth detention center is a spot that will not out.

1) youth and family voice seem to be missing from the objectives and individual strategies

2) much of the focus is downstream even in the "prevention" section. Trusting that diversion will be effective is too hopeful unless someone (prosecutor/judge) is held responsible for ensuring eligible youth are diverted instead of leaving it to "prosecutorial/judicial discretion".

3) objective that promotes positive youth development -- what are your youth "wellness" outcomes?

What is missing in these statements is the how. Will this plan involve the parents of the youth and other family members who have an interest in the child. Is there any money to help families with childcare and activities to keep youth engaged and out of trouble? Are there connections for mentoring with youth who are in trouble like a big brother big sister component. I did not hear anything about internships and jobs for youth expansion of Summer Youth Employment program for example to have youth giving back and receiving job training. Stipends for completing service learning credits which is part of graduation for kids. Partnering with CPS and DSHS to create a financial safety net around families. I feel many families are missing basic resources and could benefit from a holistic look at the families financial situation and addressing poverty in communities especially of color. Business in the community providing internship and mentoring, career exploration find out learning styles and interests of youth so you can help them to determine their path. Giving youth the opportunity for coaching and career exploration early, college prep courses, scholarship preparation courses. Providing support in schools for early identification .

The county's zero youth detention policy is in direct contradiction to the new Youth Jail being built and opened specifically to detain more youth in cages. The zero detention policy is meaningless when the county is willing to engage in contracts and practices that increase capacity for youth detention and create incentives for the incarceration of some of our most vulnerable community members. Reducing bed space for secure detention is one of the most effective and proven methods of reducing incarceration rates. The creation of this new youth jail will only end in one result - the incarceration of our children. This survey and its objectives are meaningless in light of the County's demonstrated priorities and interests in creating more space to jail children.

Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees

---

Lack of effective culturally relevant substance abuse treatment both outpatient and inpatient. Many young people in the criminal justice system are unable to benefit from community based services due to regular use of drugs and alcohol by themselves, their peers, and their caregivers.

Strategies that engage youth and families in crafting solutions. Incentives to youth to reengage in community. Approach still feels top down and relies on institutions and government to identify and implement changes. While leading with race, other social and health issues should be considered in engaging supporting youth and families. What gaps in data exist that might be collected and used to revise policy and practices to better serve youth in detention or at risk of entering detention? What is being done to engage youth and support families of youth coming out of state juvenile justice institutions not provided with support?

I believe the root cause analysis for contributing factors is incomplete, to say the least. While African-American youth are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, it is more related to a fundamentally dysfunctional criminal justice system that does not provide certainty of justice. People are simply processed through the system while escalating their criminal behavior.

Some offenses require detention - i.e. sexually predatory offenses. Zero detention is delusional.

More high quality treatment and awareness of mental health and learning disabilities in youth is needed. There is not enough awareness in the community (schools, families, peers) about these issues and access to quality mental health for youth is still limited. When a child struggles in school there is not enough understanding and support in the schools for learning differences let alone serious learning problems or mental health issues. Seattle Public Schools can be a litigious environment and can have poor quality special ed services in some schools. Even when a young person has a diagnosis there may not be adequate supports or understanding for that youth and their challenges. Sometimes families do not have the bandwidth (language, finances, time, support, their own mental health issues, possible addiction) to advocate through a broken system for their child. Some young people will be on their own and need a lot of support to be mentored and healed and may need continued support once they are on a healthy path. This will truly take a village of community members and organizations working in a coordinated way.

In addition, many community groups have joined in the no new youth jail movement rather than engaging with this effort. How can we unite the community with our shared goals? What's missing from that conversation? It sure would be great to be truly united to the task ahead.

I recently read Alex Vitale's *The End of Policing* and was most surprised to have to consider how many areas of public life involve law enforcement. Vitale questions that and makes a case that many so-called efforts to reform police forces, particularly in relation to the disproportionate targeting of POC, have not been proven to be effective. So, I would hope that King County, while moving forward on these strategies, will take a broader look at how and where we police our citizens, particularly youth.

Messaging about victims of trafficking, and language around gender and racial intersections that lead to victims of crime being put into detention. Like young women of color defending themselves against abusers, but getting sentences.

The policy trend toward zero youth detention completely misses the mark. The youth who are currently in custody are there because they have committed sexual and violent offenses and, after reviewing all available information, a judge has determined that the youth continues to be a danger to the community. While some of these policies can be helpful to prevent future crime victimizing other people and the community, they are completely reactive rather than proactive. These youth need to not commit criminal acts in the first place. For years, the KCPAO has created and utilized numerous diversion programs. In my experience, even if given multiple diversion type resolutions, many youth continued to commit crimes and the court often failed to revoke the diversion and hold the youth accountable for continuing criminal behaviors. I'm in favor of diversion programs for everything except for sex crimes and violent crimes. These youth must be held accountable for these serious crimes and not be given a slap on the hand. They can and will get the same sort of services available to all other youth but need to be held accountable for their serious crimes rather than be given a slap on the hand and "encouraged" to behave. The thing that's missing in these extensive new policies is beyond the realm of criminal justice. There needs to be intensive community outreach to areas where children need more (often because of more broken homes, limited financial resources, and a social circle of individuals related in crime related behaviors). I'm not sure how to say this in a PC manner, but as a community, we need to break up and rebuild social circles where criminal acts are the norm. Kids model behavior of adults and often peers. Positive and pro-social communities are key.

Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees

---

What about youth with little to no family ties? We need more support for foster care kids that gives them extra help and incentives to staying engaged. These are great ideas, but it doesn't include the most vulnerable population as well as the statistics that foster kids are four times more likely to end up homeless, within our legal system and with addiction issues. Also, I think more research needs to be published and accessible for people to make accurate and educated responses to this survey, as well as informing the public on how crucial youth rehabilitation is. Provide the "why" and not just "what" regarding ideas.

If there is going to be an effort towards ZYD, there needs to be increased resources of how to keep youth, families and communities safe in times of crisis. In some cases the use of detention actually is the safest alternative available. Working with youth who are in high-risk, high-safety concern situations, there is not ways to keep them safe. To keep them or others from being shot/harmed/killed or from shooting/harming/killing others. The home environment in many of these situations is the target of gunfire, so keeping them at home increasing their risk for harm/injury/death and it also increases the risk for the family and surrounding community. Nearly all resources, which were very limited to start, to have a youth in a safe environment in these situations have been closed. It is my opinion that much of the ZYD goals are focused on youth and families where this level eminent, extreme danger is not the case. And that all too often there no focus on being willing to assist youth in these situations. Safe alternative solutions need to be sought. Also really working on changing the narrative that any contact with JJ or detention is harmful, this is obsoletely contrary to many people's experience and continues a divide of us vs. them. "Incarceration is a harmful, ineffective, and expensive response to youth in crisis." Is it more expensive than loss of life? Is it more harmful than death or injury? Responding to youth & family crisis is expensive. Period. The funding needs to be flexible and not tied to a specific service. My experience in serving high-risk, high-need youth is we are too focused on the youth fitting into the "right" program(s) instead of really understanding what each individual youth & family need to be successful. Having been able to access some flexible funding outside of what King County offers has been the greatest support. Being able to easily and quickly access food, utility, basic household supports and supports to have youth/families move out the area have been helpful. This is currently not part of how King County prioritizes services. Many of the supports available are cumbersome and not quickly or easily accessed.

These are commendable and lofty goals. However, I am concerned that people in search of these goals, ignore the need to proceed slowly, carefully, and be open to accepting criticism (vs. defensive). For example, there appears to be a lack of evidenced based practices currently implemented in the juvenile system - from deciding who gets offered an alternative resolution to how the alternative program is implemented. It seems that these programs are being operated based on a gate-keeper's "gut," and that is highly problematic on many levels. Additionally, community safety and victim input cannot be an afterthought or viewed with less importance. Immediate detention numbers are important to look at and hopefully reduce, but the more important goal is to target and reduce recidivism (in an evidenced based way). Reducing the number of days a youth spends in detention today is counter-productive (and possibly more damaging), if it results in more arrests, more charges, more risky behavior in the future.

Being able to address community concern for children who are really violent, rape, murder etc. I think most people in the community believe that secrete detention is the only way to make the community safe when dealing with crimes of this nature.

What is missing is a redesign of the new youth jail in alignment with these objectives. We need a facility that is fundamentally centered on contemporary juvenile justice practices, rather than punitive youth incarceration. Is this facility incorporating all of the information, data, and restorative justice principles intended to improve our youth? Does it reflect lessons we have learned from our policies in the last 50 years? No, it does not. But it can!

An actual end to youth detention. The objectives are all contradicted by the Executive's continued push for a new youth jail and failure to engage in community conversations.

Outlining what services will be provided to juveniles while they are incarcerated, such as access to social workers, psychiatric providers and medical providers. Given that King County Correctional Facility has these services in place, it would be worth reaching out to adult detention to see how these programs are carried out and what the staffing needs are.

Preventive programs that focus on economic improvement, education improvement, and improved parenting.

I am pleased to see this holistic approach with emphasis on leading with Racial Equity and Trauma Informed Care. Training for KCSO, Metro, Justice, DCHS, and PH are important to be able to recognize the signs of trauma and not react in ways that reinjures or reinforces trauma. We need to be able to work together and outside of the normative ways we are used to. Recognizing and

---

**Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Survey Comments: King County Juvenile Legal System Employees**

---

understanding that this is not going to be a quick, easy effort, but one that includes a long term strategic plan, with short and mid term goals is important. Thank you for being so thoughtful!

Lengthy stays of detained youth while attorneys use this strategy in presentence so youth will not have to spend much if any time at JRA; disproportionality is skewed because youth of color spend these significant amounts of time with no movement of their case by prosecutor or defense counsel. If these cases were fast tracked or even forced to follow currently ignored timelines, there would be significantly less youth of color in secure detention on a daily basis

1) Accountability for juveniles who commit crimes. What about restitution to their victims?

2) What about youth who refuse to engage when services are offered?

3) Diversion currently requires 6 months before services are even offered. That is too slow.

4) Many juveniles currently believe they can do whatever they want, and there will be no consequences for their crimes. This belief leads to recurring criminal behavior, often more quickly than any services can be offered.

This all sounds great, but it is so general. The greatest need isn't just more programs, but more intensive community-based interventions for those most in need. This work is incredibly hard; it requires a huge commitment to each individual kid if it is going to be successful.

Maybe this already exists, but I would like to see a commitment to trauma-informed policing from the King County Sheriff's Office as well as local municipal police departments. Often the ball starts rolling with police involvement. If the officers at the ground level are not on board, I'm concerned that the above strategies' impact might be minimized.

The King County Prosecutors need to stop engaging in the arguably illegal practice of jailing dependent youth who run from their placements.

addressing needs of youth currently in detention.

There will always be kids that need to be incarcerated. I don't want them living next door to me.

understanding and addressing the youth that don't accept the relevance, and necessity of going to school, and applying themselves to its demands and expectations

Many of these strategies are still reactionary and don't get to the heart of the issue - why does crime exist? why do reasonable people engage in criminal behavior? The County should consider changes like implementing controlled rent to ensure affordable housing and/or home purchasing assistance so families aren't forced into rentals. What might a "universal basic income" look like at a local level? If King County really wants to be a leader, try something no one has been able to do before.

The system needs to engage families (especially parents) much, much earlier, at first pregnancy if possible, to identify domestic violence, neglect, substance abuse and other issues.

Highlighting that juvenile detention provides key services to youth that they do NOT get in the community.

In my opinion all of these are unrealistic. Zero kids in detention is something that will never work, that is like saying there could be zero adults in jails and prisons.

## Appendix X

## Summary Of Responses

As of September 1, 2018, 5:02 PM, this forum had: **Topic Start**

Attendees: 162 July 24, 2018, 8:33 AM

Responses: 116

Hours of Public Comment: 5.8

**Topic End**

August 30, 2018, 12:51 PM

### QUESTION 1

**1. Race/Ethnicity - King County seeks to elevate the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by the juvenile legal system. For this reason, the survey includes demographic questions:**

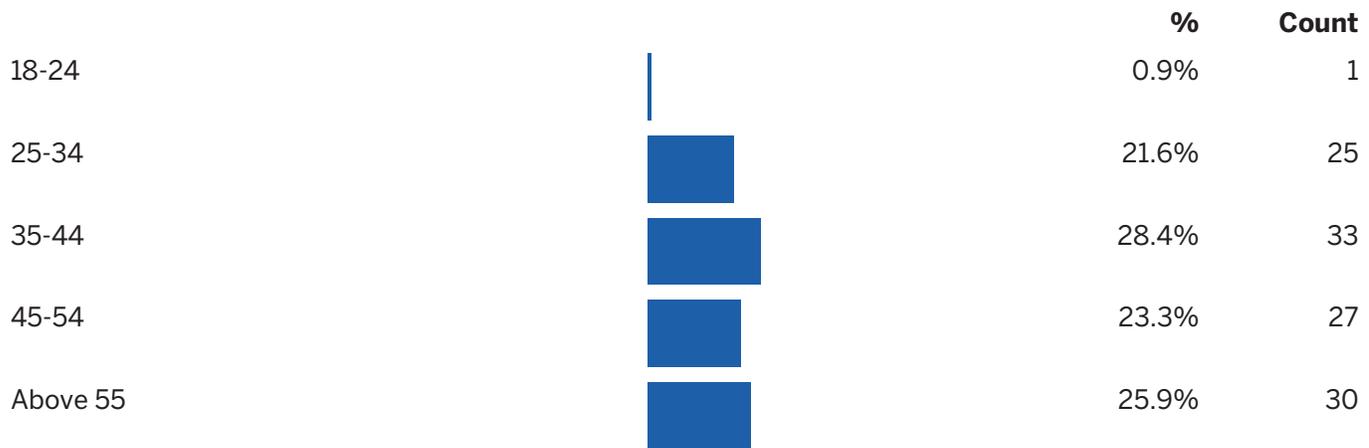
		%	Count
Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American		5.2%	6
Non-Hispanic White or Euro-American		70.7%	82
Latinx or Hispanic American		5.2%	6
East Asian or Asian American		7.8%	9
South Asian or Indian American		1.7%	2
Middle Eastern or Arab American		0.9%	1
Native American or Alaskan Native		1.7%	2
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander		1.7%	2
Other		5.2%	6

### QUESTION 2

**2. Age:**

**The Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Staff Survey**

Please provide your feedback.



QUESTION 3

**3. Zipcode**

Answered	116
Skipped	0

QUESTION 4

**4. Have you or an immediate family member been directly impacted by legal system involvement?**

**(Because King County seeks to elevate the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by the juvenile legal system, this survey includes this legal system involvement question.)**



QUESTION 5

**5. If you answered yes and are willing to provide additional information, please provide a brief description of legal system involvement that has impacted your family (300 characters or less)**

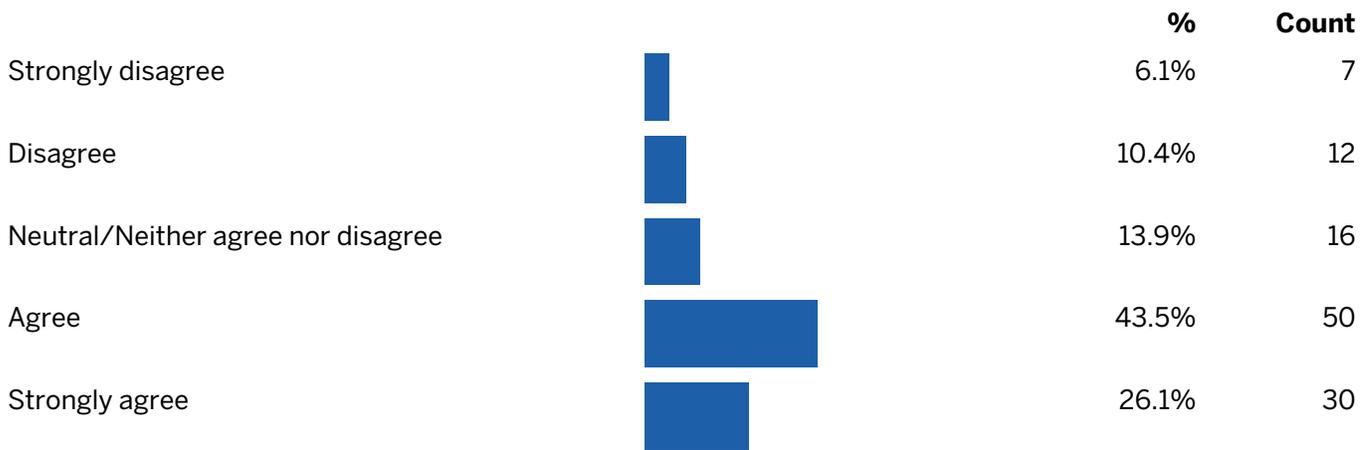
Answered	38
----------	----

Skipped

78

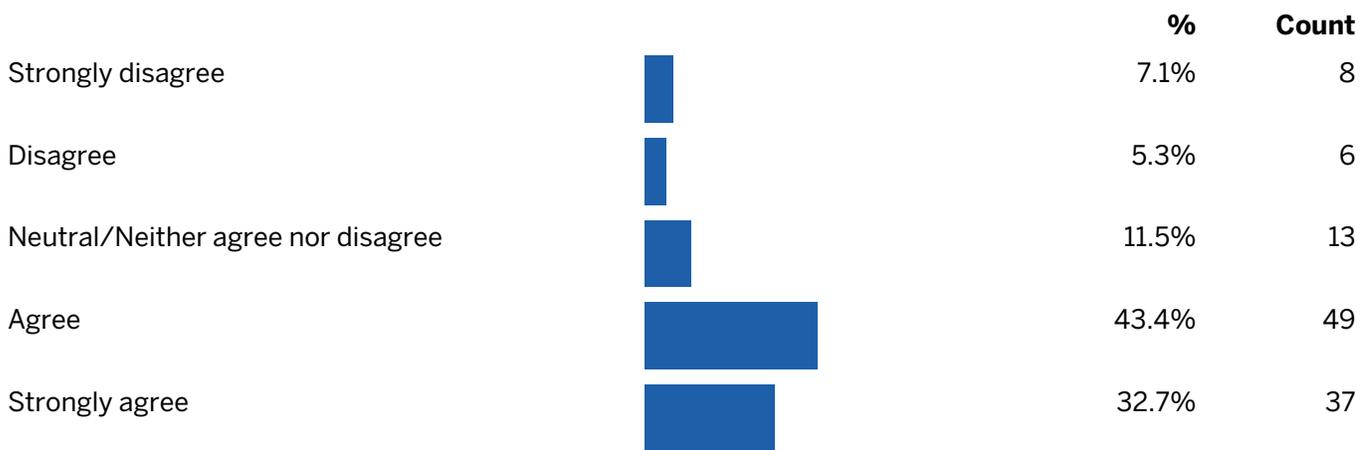
QUESTION 6

**6. I believe Objective 1 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**



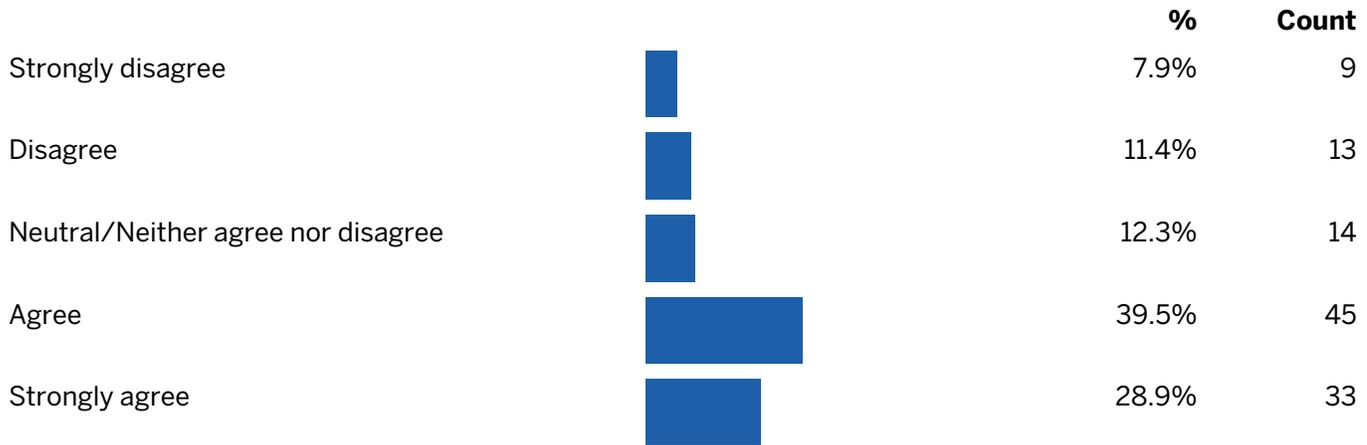
QUESTION 7

**7. I believe Objective 2 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**



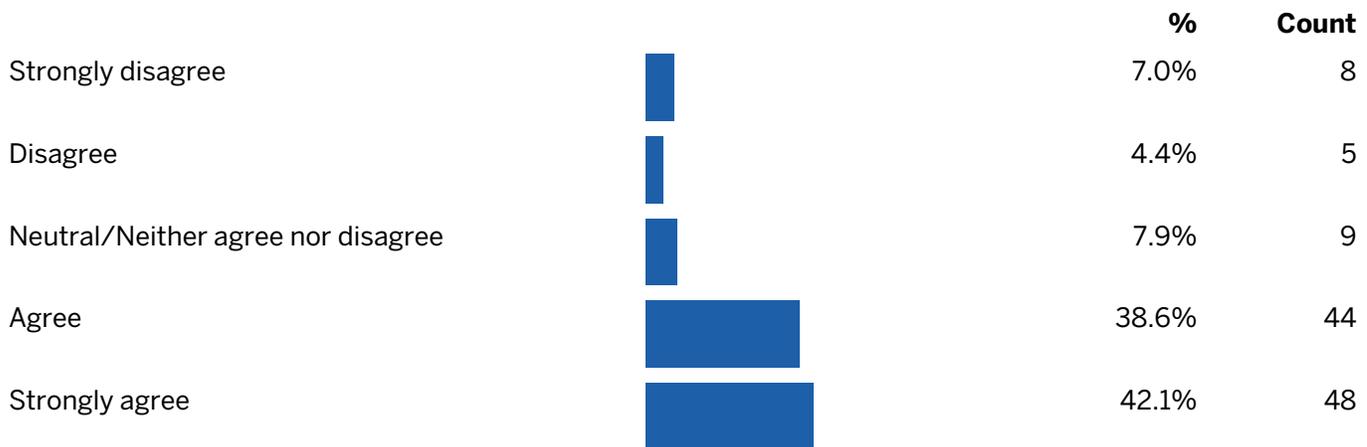
QUESTION 8

**8. I believe Objective 3 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County’s efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**



QUESTION 9

**9. I believe Objective 4 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County’s efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**



QUESTION 10

**10. What is missing? (500 characters or less)(Optional)**

Answered	74
Skipped	42

## Summary Of Responses

As of September 1, 2018, 5:00 PM, this forum had:	Topic Start	Topic End
Attendees: 46	August 23, 2018, 4:56 PM	September 1, 2018, 3:31 PM
Responses: 26		
Hours of Public Comment: 1.3		

### QUESTION 1

**1. Race/Ethnicity - King County seeks to elevate the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by the juvenile legal system. For this reason, the survey includes demographic questions:**

	%	Count
Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American	26.9%	7
Non-Hispanic White or Euro-American	57.7%	15
Latinx or Hispanic American	3.8%	1
Native American or Alaskan Native	3.8%	1
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	3.8%	1
Other	3.8%	1

### QUESTION 2

**2. Age:**

	%	Count
Under 18	3.8%	1
18-24	7.7%	2
25-34	15.4%	4

**The Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Staff Survey**

Please provide your feedback.

		<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>
35-44		15.4%	4
45-54		30.8%	8
Above 55		26.9%	7

QUESTION 3

**3. Zipcode**

Answered	26
Skipped	0

QUESTION 4

**4. Have you or an immediate family member been directly impacted by legal system involvement?**

**(Because King County seeks to elevate the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by the juvenile legal system, this survey includes this legal system involvement question.)**

		<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>
Yes		42.3%	11
No		57.7%	15

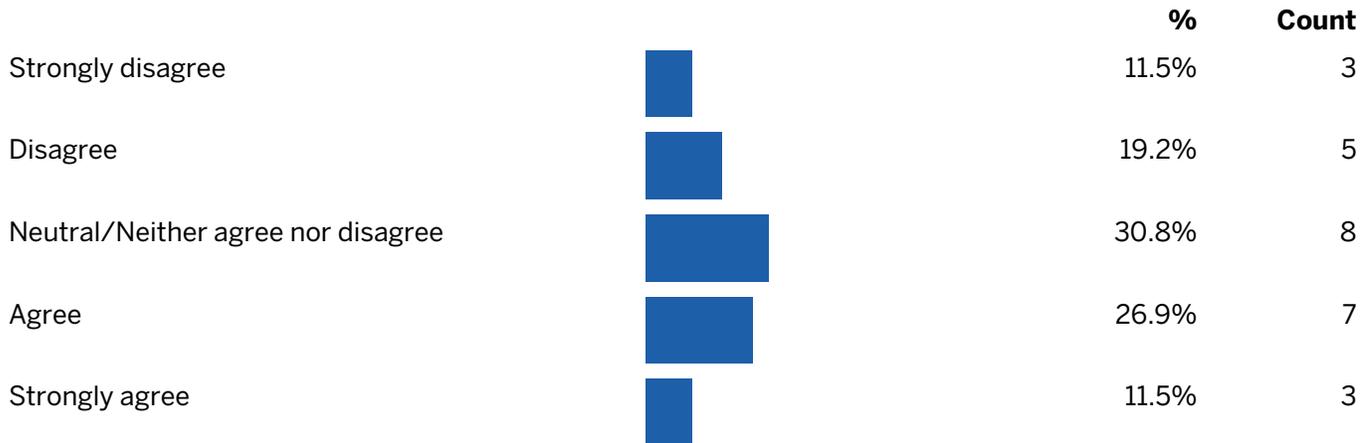
QUESTION 5

**5. If you answered yes and are willing to provide additional information, please provide a brief description of legal system involvement that has impacted your family (300 characters or less)**

Answered	8
Skipped	18

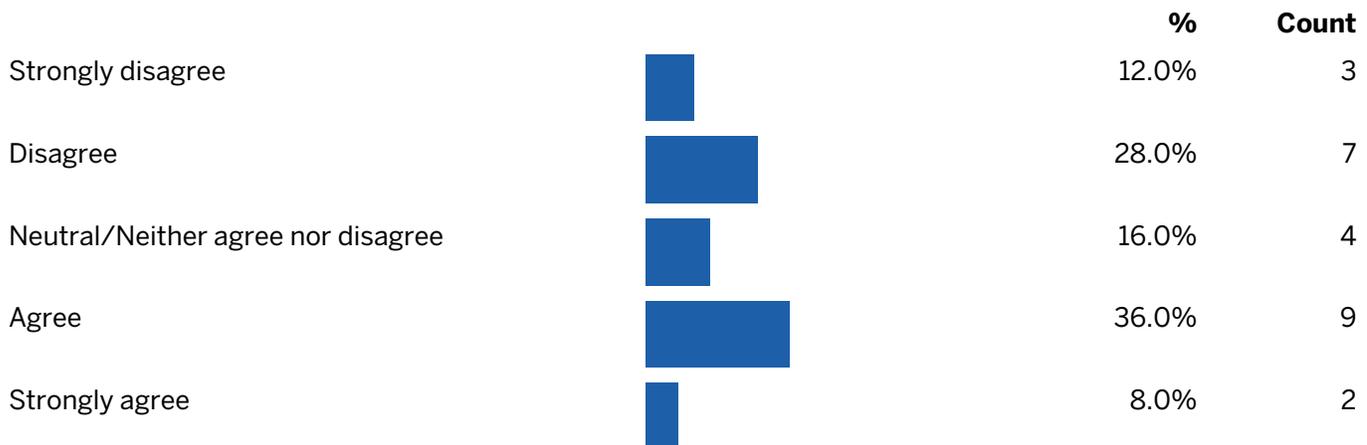
QUESTION 6

**6. I believe Objective 1 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**



QUESTION 7

**7. I believe Objective 2 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**

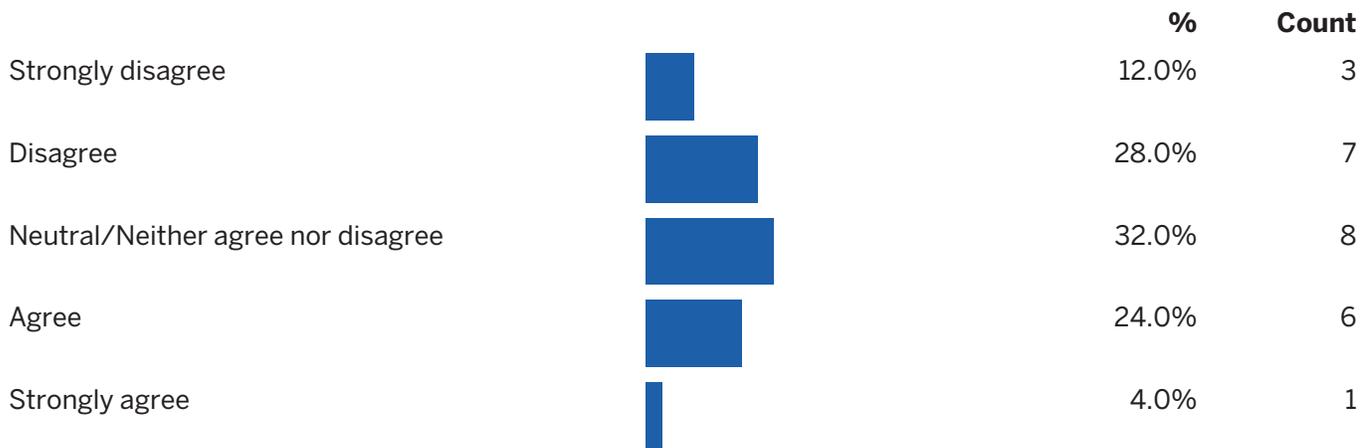


QUESTION 8

**8. I believe Objective 3 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**

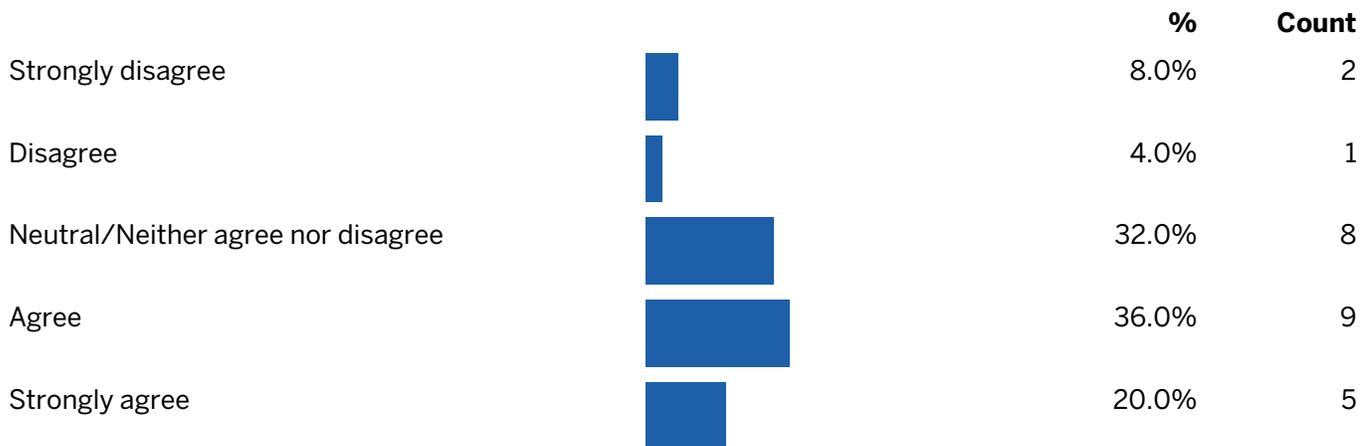
**The Road Map to Zero Youth Detention Staff Survey**

Please provide your feedback.



QUESTION 9

**9. I believe Objective 4 and the associated strategies will be effective in King County's efforts towards Zero Youth Detention:**



QUESTION 10

**10. What is missing? (500 characters or less)(Optional)**

Answered	9
Skipped	17